

Mr Mugabe calls on whites to remain

An estimated 200,000 people in Salisbury yesterday heard Mr Robert Mugabe, the black nationalist guerrilla leader, call on whites to remain in Rhodesia if his Zanu (PF) Party won the forthcoming elections. He was speaking at a rally after his return from exile in Mozambique.

Crowd of 200,000 at Salisbury rally

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, Jan 27
Mr Robert Mugabe, the Rhodesian black nationalist leader who spearheaded the guerrilla war against the Salisbury Government, returned here today from five years in exile and told a tumultuous rally of his supporters there would be no more injustice based on race and colour.

The head of the Zanu (PF) Party, whose espousal of socialism has struck fear in the hearts of the nation's 220,000 Europeans, called on whites to remain in the country and urged all of Rhodesia's 6,500,000 inhabitants to unite in order to attain a true democracy based on equality.

An estimated 200,000 or more people were at the Zimbabwe grounds in the Highfield black township of Salisbury to greet Mr Mugabe who has rarely been seen in Rhodesia because he spent most of the last 15 years in detention or in exile in Mozambique.

It was by far the largest crowd to attend a rally given by any of the black political parties taking part in next month's election and, according to some observers, it was the biggest political meeting ever held in the country.

Party officials said the crowd would have been even bigger if police and security forces auxiliaries had not stopped loads of supporters coming in from the countryside.

An exuberant Mr Mugabe, who had flown to Salisbury from Maputo earlier in the day, gave a triumphal speech in which he called on whites to remain in the country and urged all of Rhodesia's 6,500,000 inhabitants to unite in order to attain a true democracy based on equality.

He said he recognized the anxieties felt by whites and appealed to them to remain in the country. "We have not come to throw them out," he declared. "The last thing we would like to see would be the creation of refugee camps south of the Limpopo river. That would be a failure of our struggle."

He said he recognized the anxieties felt by whites and appealed to them to remain in the country. "We have not come to throw them out," he declared. "The last thing we would like to see would be the creation of refugee camps south of the Limpopo river. That would be a failure of our struggle."

Mr Mugabe yesterday: "Refugee camps would be a failure of our struggle."

standing. Police reported a number of violent incidents during the night and used tear-gas to disperse a crowd.

At a televised press conference at Salisbury airport before the rally Mr Mugabe attempted to project himself as a man of moderation whose real aim had either been misunderstood or deliberately distorted.

While conceding that his party's ideology was socialism, he sought to assure Rhodesians that Zanu (PF) "having fought gallantly for what we considered to be our honest objectives, will be honest in peace to achieve the society where all can have a place."

On key economic questions he emphasized that there would still be a place for private farmers and that only under-utilized and abandoned land or land owned by absentee landlords would be used to resettle peasants who were presently confined to the tribal trust lands. There would be no victimization or seizure of private enterprises.

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Egypt speeds peace process with new normalization date

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Jan 27
The delicate and slow-moving Middle East peace process has been given a boost by an unexpected Egyptian decision to accelerate most aspects of the normalization of relations with Israel well ahead of the deadline set down in the Camp David agreements.

The decision was taken personally by President Sadat, who is now reported to have instructed his Government to consider February 15 as the starting date for "complete" normalization rather than July 26, the day laid down in the official timetable of the peace treaty.

Senior Israeli officials were informed of the decision privately last week and further amplification is expected tomorrow, when the Egyptian leader is due to make an important speech in Cairo.

According to Mr Amis Mansour, the editor of the influential Egyptian magazine October, Mr Sadat's move came in response to Israel's discharge of its peace treaty commitments in the Sinai "with complete honesty and honour".

Israeli officials explained today that the acceleration would particularly affect the negotiation of trade, cultural and scientific agreements between the two countries. The controversial exchange of ambassadors is still scheduled to go ahead as planned on February 26.

President Sadat's intervention was particularly welcome to the Israeli Government because it appeared to reverse an Egyptian decision, announced less than two weeks ago, to slow down the pace of normalization in economy and culture.

It was cited by an Israeli Foreign Ministry official as evidence that Egypt was not now intending to link normalization with progress towards agreement on Palestinian autonomy, the central issue on which there are still wide differences.

In Israeli political circles, there was speculation that Mr Sadat may attempt to link the advance in normalization with growing pressure on Israel to hasten its withdrawal from the remaining one-third of Sinai.

US Olympic Committee votes for games to be moved, put off or abandoned

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Jan 27
The American Olympic Committee will formally ask the International Olympic Committee to move, postpone or cancel the Moscow Games.

The committee decided this by a unanimous vote last night. A decision whether the United States should boycott the games if the request is rejected will be taken if that happens.

A committee of the American Olympic Committee will meet tomorrow to decide whether to move, postpone or cancel the Moscow Games.

Since there would seem to be no chance that the Soviet Union will renounce its Afghan conquest, it may be taken that the Americans will not go to Moscow. If they can persuade a majority of other nations to agree, the Olympics will be moved and it will be up to the Russians to decide whether to accept the move.

Conversely, if a majority of the IOC decides to stick with Moscow, as Lord Killanin has repeatedly said they should, then the Americans will be faced with the decision of what to do with their athletes, and those of nations which have joined the boycott.

Emotions flared in Britain. Sir Denis Follows, chairman of the British Olympic Association, said emotionary pressure caused the United States Olympic Committee to ask for the Olympic Games to be moved (the Press Association reports).

"Patriotic fervour has been emotionally aroused in the United States which makes it difficult for them to look at things rationally," he said.

But Sir Denis said he thought that members of the British Olympic Association were unlikely to be moved by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's request to boycott the Moscow Games.

No nuclear stations for Denmark

Nuclear power stations have slipped down the list of Denmark's energy priorities. The Government has postponed indefinitely a decision on their introduction. It appears that Denmark will not now be in a position to adopt nuclear power until the twenty-first century at the earliest, if at all.

£6,000 drug for one kidney patient

A drug that costs £6,000 for each patient was used at a south London kidney unit, which has had funds for transplants temporarily cut off because of overspending. A decision on new transplants to be carried out before April and ways of funding them is to be taken today.

Safety measures by Yugoslav forces

President Tito saw his Defence Minister, who informed him on the measures that the Yugoslav forces were taking to test their preparedness. Military exercises held in some neighbouring countries close to their borders are said to have aroused Yugoslav suspicions.

Corsican demands

A crowd of 5,000 demonstrated in Ajaccio, singing Corsican songs, waving the Corsican flag and shouting 'Liberté. Socialists and Communists joined Corsican autonomists in the demonstration whose demands included the suppression of the police and the resignation of the French Minister of the Interior.

Victory in sight

Mr Abulhasan Bani-Sadr, Iran's Finance Minister, looks set for a convincing victory in the country's first presidential election. The clergy, however, appear to have suffered severe reversals at the polls.

Nine-plus tests call to raise standards

Standardized tests for pupils aged nine and 13 and regular checks by the Schools Inspectorate were suggested in a pamphlet aimed at raising education standards. It says that there is a link between underachievement in schools and unemployment, and the raising of standards is "the most vital task facing Britain today".

French driver wins

René Arnoux, a former French mechanic turned driver, won his first grand prix yesterday when his turbo-charged Renault finished 21 seconds ahead of the Essex Lotus of Elio de Angelis, of Italy, in Brazil. Alan Jones, the world championship leader, was third.

Editor questioned

The managing editor of the Madrid newspaper which reported an alleged military plot against the Spanish Government was ordered to appear before an army investigating officer. The report, linked to the transfer of the army general, has been vigorously denied by ministers.

Water men in talks

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BR aims to cut back 30,000 jobs by 1983

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

British Rail wants to shed 30,000 jobs, one in six of its labour force, over the next three years as part of a big rationalization and productivity programme.

Rail union leaders, have been given early warning of the plan, which British Rail argues is vital to its success, and to the industry's efforts to win increased government investment in electrification and modernization.

But British Rail has until now been vague about figures, and the gross job reduction envisaged by management will be greeted with dismay by the unions, who have put a price tag of £300m on their wages and hours aspirations for this year.

British Rail plans to restructure its traditional activities in the light of economic prospects for the next decade, and wants to move closer to the continental model of "open" stations, flexible working and a standard rostered week that would make Sunday a normal working day.

The proposals include new manning concepts. Signalling could be done by train arrivals, rather than by a series of other station duties, and some trains could run without guards.

A gross manpower reduction of 30,000 by 1982-83 is suggested, although the net loss on numbers would probably be only 10,000 to 15,000. Much of the cutback would be achieved through natural wastage.

Productivity negotiations with the unions have opened tentatively. Agreement has not been possible on one form involving all three rail unions—the National Union of Railwaymen, the Transport Salaried Staffs Association, and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen—and it is increasingly likely that parts of the productivity programme will be swept into the 1980 pay round.

After settling for just over 10 per cent last year (substantially below many other public sector deals), British Rail management is becoming reconciled to conceding wage rises of 17 to 18 per cent this April, approximately in line with the rate of inflation. But it is looking for a "significant improvement" in productivity as part of the settlement.

If this is not achieved, the industry cannot approach the Government for fresh modernization capital with any optimism. It is argued, British Rail is watching closely developments in the steel strike, which is costing the railway £2m a week in lost revenue, for indications of trade union and managerial attitudes to wages, productivity, and investment.

In the first phase of the productivity programme, British Rail wants union cooperation in freight and parcels rationalization schemes; agreement on methods of rostering, and allocation; closure of some sidings and shunting operations; and a start to administrative streamlining.

The second phase, starting next year, will involve further and bigger changes on the freight side: job versatility that breaks down barriers between blue and white collar work; modernization of signalling, and greater flexibility of work rostering. Introduction of "open stations" so that ticket collectors are gradually phased out.

British Rail will vigorously oppose the unions' demands for a 35-hour working week, which would cost the industry nearly £150m a year, but the management is offering proposals to cut the hours of work. Railwaymen work an average of 48 to 50 hours a week.

After the latest round of increases, British Rail wants to keep fares at their present level for the rest of the year. But it is offering a 10 per cent fare rise and a punitive cash limit set for the industry by the Government.

Union to seek appeal against order halting spread of steel strike

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

Leaders of the biggest steel union will seek leave this morning for an immediate appeal against an injunction ordering it to rescind a decision to spread its strike to the private sector and restraining it from secondary picketing.

The decision by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) to call out more than 15,000 members in the private sector from yesterday stands until a meeting tomorrow of the executive. Mr William Sims, the union's general secretary, made clear that the executive alone had the power to rescind its instruction in accordance with the Court of Appeal decision to grant the injunction on Saturday (Law Report, page 4).

Mr Sims said: "In so far as we are obliged by the injunction we will of course comply with our legal obligations."

Mr Sims, however, emphasized that the union is determined to challenge the decision by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton, and Lord Justice Ackner, when Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said yesterday "had professed in plaudits for the trade union movement as a whole."

Although Mr Murray did not say so yesterday, the ISTC is likely, if it seeks it, to receive TUC financial support for an appeal to the House of Lords against a decision which will further muddy the waters of planned consultations between the Government and union leaders on amendments to the Employment Bill dealing with trade union legal immunities.

Mr Murray said that the TUC shared the union's "astonishment and grave concern" at the decision and at the court's "remarkable denial" to the union of a right to appeal to the House of Lords.

He added: "It is imperative that this issue should be resolved quickly and the TUC, therefore, strongly supports the ISTC's request for a speedy hearing of an appeal by the House of Lords."

The ISTC is hoping that despite the Court of Appeal's refusal to allow an appeal, the Law Lords will do so today.

Mr Sims also said he hoped that the Lords would show the same urgency in hearing the case as had been displayed by the Court of Appeal in overturning at an unusual weekend session, the High Court ruling on Friday against the 16 private steel companies which sought the injunction.

The British Steel Corporation (BSC) last night remained hopeful of a breakthrough in the dispute after the adjournment of pay negotiations with 11 unions other than National Union of Blackfurnacemen (NUB) and the ISTC. The talks were said to have made considerable progress.

Mr Sims emphasized yesterday that the union had not yet received Saturday's judgment in writing. But speaking after consultations with the union's solicitors, he said: "Throughout the whole of this dispute all that we have done has been strictly in accordance with the law of this country, especially as laid down by the House of Lords in recent cases."

He added: "Lord Denning is apparently saying that in any case where the Government controls the purse strings of a firm or an industry, those who ask that the purse strings be loosened are no longer in a trade dispute, but are involved in some form of political dispute."

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This will, of course, affect Continued on page 2, col 5

Welsh unions all out today for steelmen

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

More than 200,000 trade unionists are expected to strike today in Wales in what is the largest protest against the Government's economic policies since Mrs Margaret Thatcher took office.

Welsh trade unionists will show solidarity with the steelworkers and miners by staying away from work or by holding short protest meetings.

At least 8,000 others will march through Cardiff to a rally where they will be addressed by Mr William Sims, Mr Laurence Daley, general secretary of the miners' union, and Mr Michael Foot, MP for Ebbw Vale.

Although the strike has been called in support of the campaign against the British Steel Corporation's policy of buying foreign coal many unionists consider it to be a wider protest against the Government's economic and industrial strategy.

Faced with the possible loss of more than 20,000 jobs in steel and coal as Port Talbot and Llanwern works are closed, the Government is accused of the so-called ripple effect of the decline in these primary industries could double the jobless total.

Today's action is a compromise by the Welsh trade union leaders who wanted to launch an all-out indefinite strike. They have given the British TUC until March 10 to use firm action or they say they will proceed with a prolonged strike led by the South Wales miners.

Last night Mr George Wright, general secretary of the Wales TUC, said: "We are urging tomorrow because the Government and the corporation are taking vital decisions which affect every member of the principality without even talking to us."

"If the corporation continues to impose subsidies cost the social and economic consequences for Wales will be disastrous."

Mr Nicolas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said it was easy to see steel and coal closures as the core of the economic and industrial crisis. "The truth is far different. This country is face to face with economic disaster. People must be brought to understand the gravity of a crisis that goes far wider than the fate of an individual industry or of a particular region."

REFUGEES from AFGHANISTAN in terrible need

Crowded into the mountainous territory in Pakistan are over 500,000 Afghan refugees. They could bring little with them, and have been given refuge in a poor country.

They are in desperate need of food, shelter, clothing against the bitter cold, and medical supplies. Proudly independent they are reluctant to ask for help, yet their need is very urgent.

The best way to help the old who suffer acutely is to provide money for supplies. Help the Aged has already sent money for food and medical supplies, but much more is needed, quickly.

Please put your concern into action with a generous gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T4, FREEPOST 30, London, W1E 7JZ. (No stamp needed).

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HOME NEWS

Crucial talks today in effort to avert national water strike

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Crucial talks are to be held in London this morning to try to avert the threatened national water strike. It will be the first time the four unions have met the employers since negotiations broke down before Christmas, when the unions rejected a 13 per cent pay offer.

All the unions have threatened to strike if the National Water Council does not improve its offer, and in particular if no movement is made towards parity with workers in the gas and electricity industries.

Today's talks will centre on implementing a pay offer which, the unions claim, shows that water workers are paid on average £10 a week less than workers in the other two industries.

The water council disputes that interpretation of the report, but is prepared to negotiate on comparability in the hope of finding a compromise, which could end the current wage-stagging payments for comparability.

When talks broke down in December the water council said that because of the financial constraints placed on it by the Government it could not afford a higher offer. However, because of the threat of the first national strike and the strength of feeling among 23,000 workers in the industry the employers will be making an improved offer today.

Leaders of the four unions, the General and Municipal Workers, the Transport and General Workers, the National Union of Public Employees and the agricultural workers' union, are sceptical whether the offer will be sufficient and said at the weekend that there was still a real prospect of a strike.

The unions' claim was for increases of more than 46 per cent. They have worked out that the £10 comparability claim is worth 16 per cent, and in addition they were asking for a 15-a-week increase in the minimum basic rate and improvements on working hours, holidays and holiday payments.

Hattersley challenge to Militants

By Our Political Correspondent

As a democratic socialist party, Labour had to make clear that people who did not believe in the transformation of society by democratic means had no right to be its members, Mr Roy Hattersley, MP for Birmingham, Sparkbrook, and member of the shadow Cabinet, told party workers in Worsnop, Nottinghamshire, on Saturday.

He said he bitterly regretted the decision of the national executive to publish the manifesto prepared by Lord Underhill, the former national agent, on the infiltration of local Labour parties by the Trotskyist "Militant" tendency.

The reasons given for the suppression of the reports have varied from the disgraceful to the ridiculous, Mr Hattersley said.

The Manifesto group of moderate Labour MPs, some of whom think that Mr James Callaghan has not put up a strong enough fight against the influence of the left-wingers in the national executive, has called for action on the Underhill report and for change in the composition of the party into Labour Party organization to give the moderates better representation.

Trust may rescue arts centre

By Martin Huckerby

The threatened closure of the Battersea Arts Centre, in south London, which could be one of the worst casualties of the local government cuts, may be averted by a proposal that an independent trust should run the building.

When Wandsworth Borough Council announced it was planning to save as much as £150,000 by withdrawing funds for the centre's activities, there was vigorous protest. The Friends of Battersea Arts Centre are holding a benefit gala at the town hall on Wednesday as part of the campaign.

It now appears possible that funds raised by the gala will not be used for the campaign against the cuts, but instead will help to support a new public trust which would assume responsibility for the centre later this year.

Council leaders have agreed to meet representatives of the proposed trust to discuss the meeting will be discussed by the council's recreation committee on March 4. Although no decision has been made, it appears that the council might be willing to let the building to the trust at a reduced rent, and might also be prepared to make a grant towards the running cost of the centre.

Lawyers criticize Denning judgment

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

The Haldane Society, of socialist lawyers, which represents more than 300 practicing and academic lawyers, issued a statement yesterday criticizing the Court of Appeal's decision to forbid the extension of the steel strike to private companies.

Mr Jeremy Smith, the society's secretary, said: "Pro-employer decisions on industrial disputes by Lord Denning in the Court of Appeal have time and again of late been set aside by the House of Lords. Yet once again Lord Denning and his Appeal Court colleagues have intervened against peaceful industrial action by workers in furtherance of a legitimate dispute."

"Trade unionists have lost faith in the impartiality of the courts in cases concerning industrial action."

Mr Roy Hughes, MP for Newport and chairman of the steel group of Labour MPs, said: "Lord Denning is living up to his reputation. It is time he joined the old age pensioners."

Mr Robert Cray, Labour MP for Keighley, said the decision was not justified because the proposed extension of the strike to the private sector was clearly in furtherance of a trade dispute.

In a letter to his local Conservative MP, Norman St John-Stevens, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and MP for Chelmsford, Lord Denning said that Mr James Callaghan, the Leader of the Opposition, was paid a salary by the taxpayers but also in the country's interests.

"Yet we have been heard from Mr Callaghan and his colleagues on the steel strike?" Mr St John-Stevens asked. "Not a word to prevent its spreading to the private sector of the steel industry, where there is no dispute; not a word to encourage self-financing productivity deals to provide more pay for the steel workers?"

Mr Michael Marshall, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, speaking at Pembroke College, Cambridge, last night referred to the "siren voices" asking the Government to intervene.

"We can dismiss the call from the Opposition; they only seek to use the dispute to embarrass the Government," he said.



Mr William Sims: "Grave cause for concern at Lord Denning's judgment."

19 firms closed in West Midlands

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

Union officials reported full support from steel workers in the private sector at West Midlands manufacturing and retooling plants yesterday.

Mr Clive Lewis, a divisional organizer of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said: "We take our instructions from the national executive council, not from some fellow with a funny hair. We have not changed our plans on this and in fact we are increasing our activity."

Nineteen companies were closed down in the region yesterday with between 8,000 and 9,000 workers on strike. A further 3,500 members of the ISTC are expected to come out today.

The main plants affected were Round Oak Steel, Brierley Hill, specialist steel producers, jointly owned by Tube Investments and BSC, where 3,000 were out; Patent Shaft Ltd., of Wednesbury, 2,000;

the Ductile Steel Group, 2,000; and the Dupont Group, 800. Most plants were being picketed.

Last night an advance guard of 400 extra pickets, mostly from Teesside and Yorkshire, began arriving in Birmingham to intensify the blockade of steel stockholders.

Mr Roy Bishop, divisional organizer of the ISTC, said: "Our problem is accommodation, and we are trying to find a large hall to bed them down. Trade unionists and Labour Party members have helped out and I am investigating one offer by a local authority of a large house."

"Until we hear to the contrary from the national executive we carry on as before. There is no way we can take instructions via the press, radio or television. The position is obviously fluid and will remain so while the legal position, about an appeal is being clarified."

"We are awaiting further instructions from the executive and until we get them we continue as before. Anything can happen at any time."

Today picketing pressure will be increased on stockholders, as the area strike committee has rejected appeals to picket consumers, particularly large ones, like B.L. They consider that cutting off supplies at source is the best way to use their thinly spread manpower.

Further backing came from the transport workers, whose powerful 5/35 branch of lorry drivers in Birmingham said yesterday: "Our policy is to support steel workers in every way. Drivers will honour picket lines, official or unofficial, wherever they appear."

The West Midlands region of the "Confederation of British Industry" reported a general increase in tension because of the stepping up of picketing planned for stockholding companies.

Private steel strikers defy court ruling

From Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial Correspondent
Rotherham

Despite the Court of Appeal decision on Saturday that the steel strike must not be spread to the private sector, iron and steel trades Confederation members at the Leeds Road factory of Hadfields, one of Sheffield's biggest private companies, went on strike at 6 am yesterday.

Later senior union officials in the private and public sectors met at the South Yorkshire strike headquarters in Rotherham and decided to continue extending the strike to the private sector.

A meeting of the South Yorkshire strike committee decided that strike action in the private sector should go ahead in accordance with the union's national executive committee decision until such time as new instructions were issued by Mr William Sims, the confederation's general secretary or the national executive.

At Scunthorpe a meeting of 60 shop stewards representing branches of the confederation in one of the most moderate areas of the union took a similar decision.

Mr Keith Jones, divisional strike coordinator, said branch meetings were held on Saturday night and yesterday's decision was unanimous. He said steel supplies to private companies throughout the area would be stopped by pickets.

Mr Joseph Pickles, the confederation's divisional secretary, who has 21,360 members in his area, 14,000 of them in South Yorkshire, said confederation members at private plants numbered about 2,500, and they would be on strike outside Hadfields East Hacks works was maintained.

have to advise our people that until the executive committee decision is rescinded they must carry on as per instructions," he said.

He understood that members at Arthur Lee, another prominent private Sheffield steel group, and Hadfields had agreed to picket their own plants.

Mr Pickles said: "If we receive an instruction to withdraw the pickets we shall do so. We do not want to violate the law of the land." That was the view of the strike committee as well, he said.

Mr Edward Thorne, secretary of the strike committee, pointed out that the only intention of the court ruling was to prevent the law of the land from being used to prevent work and others taking strike action.

Mr Pickles forecast that the national executive would instruct members not to involve the private sector, probably tomorrow.

It seems likely that confusion will arise in the Sheffield and Rotherham private sector works today, which some men reporting for work and others taking strike action.

Army and prison service try to recruit men from Corby

From Frances Gibb
Corby

Steelworkers at Corby are starting to turn to jobs in the prison service and the Army as the dates for closure of the plant in March draw near.

The prison service is mounting a big recruitment campaign to attract steelworkers to fill the 2,000 vacancies for prison officers, expected throughout the country this year.

Already it has received about twenty inquiries and its two recruitment days at Corby, where 5,500 steelworkers are to lose their jobs, does not take place until next week.

"We will look at anyone," a Home Office official said. "Whatever numbers Corby comes up with I am sure we can accommodate."

The Army Information Office at Corby, approved by the Ministry of Defence, reports a doubling in the number of inquiries to about 10 a week over the past month.

"Not all these are from steelworkers but since the strike there has been quite a response," said a spokesman. "Our contact with this time last year." Warrant Officer Morris Gonifas said. The applicants were mostly young men in their late teens or early twenties but there had been one steelworker, aged 29, who said he was self-interested even though his wife had been dismissed from her job.

"He said that as long as he had three years without a strike he did not mind," WO Gonifas said.

The Royal Air Force has been recruiting at Corby every fortnight for the past six months and inquiries have been running at around 40 a month with applications at around 15.

At the town's jobcentre inquiries are building up to about half a dozen a day but the bulk is not expected until redundancy payments have been made.

Mr Brier, the centre's manager, said it was difficult to know whether it was the steel strike or the imminent closure of the works which was prompting inquiries. The strike is now likely to mean the delay of jobs at the plant, which the jobcentre was planning for next Monday. Some 60 firms throughout the country are waiting to send representatives.

Apart from the prison service and the forces, there will be a demand for skilled or semi-skilled engineers, security officers, plumbers, electricians and tradesmen to carry out the work of the plant.

Mr Brier is confident that in the end most steelworkers should find jobs. But he said that the steelworkers' strike would be a disaster for the town's economy. The town's development corporation are estimating that there will be an extra 3,000 to 4,000 jobs.

But short-term prospects are limited. The town's steel plant is a major employer, producing plastic mouldings, such as yogurt cups.

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Tories explain Britain's plight

By Our Political Correspondent

In advance of the announcement of further public spending cuts expected in the next few weeks, several ministers put emphasis on the country's serious financial plight in speeches during the weekend.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, addressing Pembroke Conservatives on Saturday, said that Britain was "face to face with economic disaster". People must be brought to realize the gravity of the crisis, which went far wider than the fate of an individual industry or region, he said.

Faced by the serious social consequences of Welsh steel and coal closures, he wanted to see the Welsh to see them in isolation and blame the Government. "There is sadly too little recognition of the need to put our own house in order, to adjust to the consequences of a further doubling of the world oil price within a year, and to face what will happen if we go on spending more than we produce," he said.

As a consequence of spending more than Britain earned, the Government now paid nearly £10,000m each year in debt interest, more than the total budget for health and social services, education or defence.

Mr John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, speaking at North Petherton, Somerset, on Saturday, said high interest rates were a direct result of

an unbalanced budget. When the Government was known to have a massive borrowing requirement it was no wonder that interest rates increased. The Government was not in a position to borrow for productive purposes.

"How then, are we to solve this pressing and serious problem?" Mr Biffen asked. "By raising direct taxes, so soon after we have set out on a long-term campaign of income tax reduction? Or by cutting government expenditure?"

Mr Biffen's choice is clear and direct: "I would far prefer to see a substantial cut in government expenditure plans inherited last May. I see no merit in a return to a tax situation which would put the country at a disadvantage to those of neighbouring European countries."

In Scotland, said the nation has seen the folly of spending money that was not there to spend and had called in "Dr Thatcher" to cure that addiction to spending.

The surgery on public expenditure, on the so-called social wage, the free bit, will have to be increasingly drastic if we are to be cured," he said.

Writing in the *News of the World* yesterday, Mr Geoffrey Rippon, MP for Hexham and leader of the Conservative group in the European Parliament, attacked the inaccuracy of Treasury forecasts in recent

years. Last year, he said, Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was warned by his experts to expect a balance of payments deficit of £750m. In the event, it was three times higher.

His forecasters contemplated a degree of pay restraint that had been knocked sideways. The average pay rise in the current year was running at 19.2 per cent.

High interest rates substantially increased the cost of servicing the public debt, and although a Treasury minister had been unable to give him information on that, Mr Rippon gave his estimate that the current cost was £300m for this year.

On the labour side, Mr Gavin Strang, MP for East Edinburgh and an opposition frontbencher spokesman, speaking in his constituency yesterday, said that only a reversal of the Government's policy of cutbacks in investment in private and publicly owned industry could save Britain from a level of unemployment reminiscent of the 1930s.

A jobsless total of over 200,000 in Scotland was enough, but the sharp reduction of 1,500 in the seasonally adjusted vacancies figure can only mean that the outlook for Scottish school-leavers this year is worse than at any time since the war," he said.

"Youth unemployment, at that scale is a cancer which no civilized society should tolerate."

Strike leaders intend to maintain picketing

By Nicholas Timmins

Steel strike leaders at Corby, Northamptonshire, and in North-east Scotland, said that picketing would continue until they heard from their union executive.

Neither area has much private steelmaking, although steel workers from Corby last week picketed the Sheerness Steel Company, in Kent, one of the largest private steel producers.

Mr Michael Skelton, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation strike coordinator at Corby, said the pickets had no immediate plans to return there, although they would go if they were asked to do so.

Mr John Lee, ISTC strike coordinator at Corby, said: "We will maintain pickets at King's Lynn and at steel stockholders in the Midlands."

"We know nothing about the injunction. We shall be carrying on as normal until we hear differently from the executive."

In the North-east there are no private steelmakers; but there are two retooling companies, which strike leaders expect to be involved in the dispute today. The Midlands-based strike committee also decided to continue picketing at nine or ten stockholders there.

There was some uncertainty about how far the injunction would extend and whether it ordered a halt to picketing of stockholders and imports as well as private steelmakers.

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"We know nothing about the injunction. We shall be carrying on as normal until we hear differently from the executive."

Scots to ignore 'English' court's ruling

From Our Correspondent
Glasgow

Mr Fergus Shevlin, chairman of the Scottish strike committee of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said in Glasgow yesterday: "We do not like the decision by Lord Denning, but it was a legal injunction made in an English court and does not apply to Scotland."

Our picketing of private steel firms, and the stopping of all movements of steel throughout Scotland, will continue.

"Not one picket will be withdrawn. The effect of this decision could paralyse the resolve of the striking steelworkers up and down the country. That will be the only effect it will have in Scotland."

There were no privately owned steelmakers in Scotland, only private steel-rolling firms, Mr Shevlin said.

Pickets would be engaged this week on stopping all steel movements, and would maintain their vigilance at Scottish ports.

Four injured in clashes at Sinn Fein rally

Continued from page 1

people in the mines, railways and even British Leyland. This will be unacceptable and is why the House of Lords must make a ruling as soon as possible. Not even the Government has suggested that we are involved in anything other than a trade dispute."

Lord Denning had also apparently made a ruling forbidding secondary picketing. Mr Sims said: "It would seem that he is anticipating parliamentary legislation which goes far beyond the judicial function of interpreting rather than making the law. On this occasion he has gone too far."

Indications in reports reaching ISTC headquarters yesterday were that most private sector steelworkers who had not already done so would join the strike today, in spite of the ruling.

Mr Sims said he imagined that until the executive reversed its decision, his members "would continue on the basis of the existing instruction."

Last night the negotiations with the 11 unions at the London headquarters of the BSC were adjourned after eight hours. Both the ISTC and the NUB refused to attend the meeting because they said that amendments to the existing industrial issues, balance of payments and productivity negotiations, disclosed to them at private talks with the corporation on Friday, were not enough to allow full negotiations to resume.

Men expected to join strike despite ruling

Continued from page 1

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Castle diary tells of bitter Cabinet exchanges

By Our Political Correspondent

More bitter accusations against the "defeatism" and manoeuvring of Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, when he was Home Secretary in the Labour government in 1969, are made in the third instalment of Mrs Barbara Castle's diaries published in *The Sunday Times* yesterday.

Then Secretary of State for Employment, Mrs Castle was trying to get Cabinet backing for her Bill on trade union reform based on her White Paper, *In Place of Strife*. Mr Callaghan was one of its opponents. It also ran into strong opposition in the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The day after one of the PLP's meetings on the subject, Mrs Castle writes she wanted to discuss with Mr (now Sir) Harold Wilson, the Prime Minister, Mr Roy Jenkins, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr Richard Crossman, Social Services Secretary, the fact that Mr Douglas Houghton (now Lord Houghton) "dropped a bombshell" at the meeting, more or less saying that the Government would have to compromise over the Bill.

Mrs Castle said she wanted to report her views on that manoeuvring "before we met in

inner Cabinet with the snake, Callaghan, lurking in the grass."

As the government moved in to its dispute with the Trades Union Congress over the Bill, Mrs Castle and Mr Crossman had suggested to Mr Wilson that there should be an inner Cabinet (later called the Management Committee) that could give us both coherence and continuity of strategy, linking together all the key issues from Northern Ireland to the state of sterling."

Mr Crossman had said: "If you are going to do that, you must clearly have in the inner group people that you can trust, and by definition that rules out Jim."

At another point she writes: "We had taken care not to circulate any papers before hand, knowing our Jim."

And in relation to the PLP meeting she commented: "They cannot even see that Jim and Houghton are playing in double harness, like a comic and his feed man."

Suddenly, at a full Cabinet, reviewing the reactions of the unions and the PLP, Mr Crossman "launched into ferocious attack, obviously aimed at Jim. Some people, he said, believed they could get us off the hook by ditching Harold and finding another leader."

"That was obviously why Houghton had made the speech. . . . But the plotters had better realize that it wouldn't work. Four of the inner heart of the Cabinet could not and would not serve under the supplanter. We would sink or swim together."

Mrs Castle records that Mr Callaghan interjected: "Sink or swim?" Mr Crossman then asked how he could work with the rest of the Cabinet when he believed the next election was already lost.

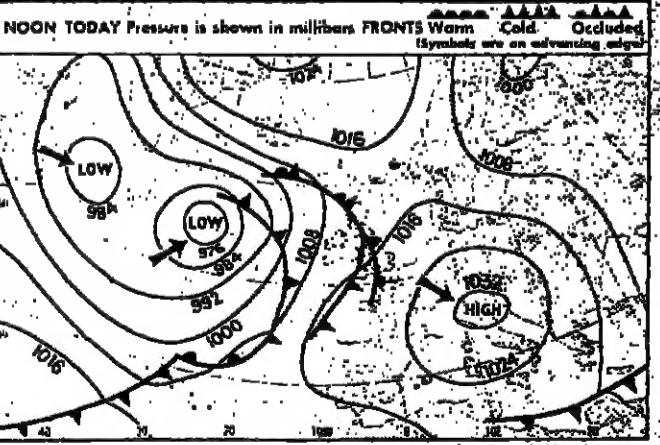
The diary continues: "If my colleagues want me to go, I will, murmured Jim unthinkingly. Dick flushed back at him: 'Why don't you go? Get out! We all sat electrified till Harold intervened soothingly.'"

When Mrs Castle, her husband, Mr Crossman and his family went on a holiday in the Mediterranean in a yacht owned by Sir Charles Forte, the hotelier, she found that Mr Crossman "talked childishly when he could not get his way."

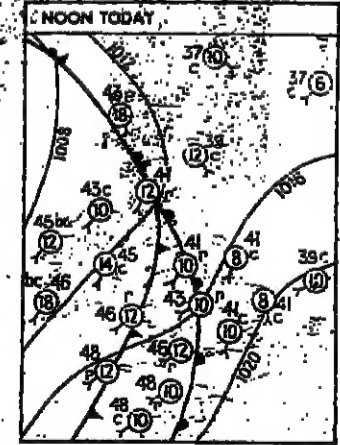
"I knew he was an intellectual bully," she wrote, "but I did not know before that he was a social one as well. . . . It is far less excusable and makes the reliability of his judgment still more suspect."

He called for a written undertaking from MPs that all income derived from publications concerning Labour should go towards party funds, and should be delayed for 10 years after the writer had held a position in the party.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 7.46 am
Sun sets: 4.42 pm
Moon rises: 1.40 am
Moon sets: 1.40 pm
Lighting up: 5.12 pm to 7.15 am
High water: London Bridge 10.48 am, 6.30 pm, 11.29 pm, 6.50 am, Avonmouth: 2.55 am, 10.71 am, 4.38 pm, 11.11 pm, Dover: 7.54 am, 3.71 pm, 6.30 pm, 3.35 pm, 6.20 pm, Liverpool: 8.35 am, 8.00 pm, 5.52 pm, 11.11 pm, 3.20 pm
A rough of low pressure will move NE across most of the day. Forecasts for 5 am to midnight:
Central S. England, Midlands: Mostly cloudy, rain at times, frost, fog patches and some very rough at first; winds S or SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).
Wales, NW England, Lake District, SW Scotland: Mostly cloudy, rain at times, hill and coastal fog patches; wind SE, fresh or strong, becoming SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 9°C (48°F).
Isle of Man, Glasgow, Argyll, N. Ireland: Mostly cloudy, rain at times, hill fog patches; wind SE, fresh or strong, becoming SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 9°C (48°F).

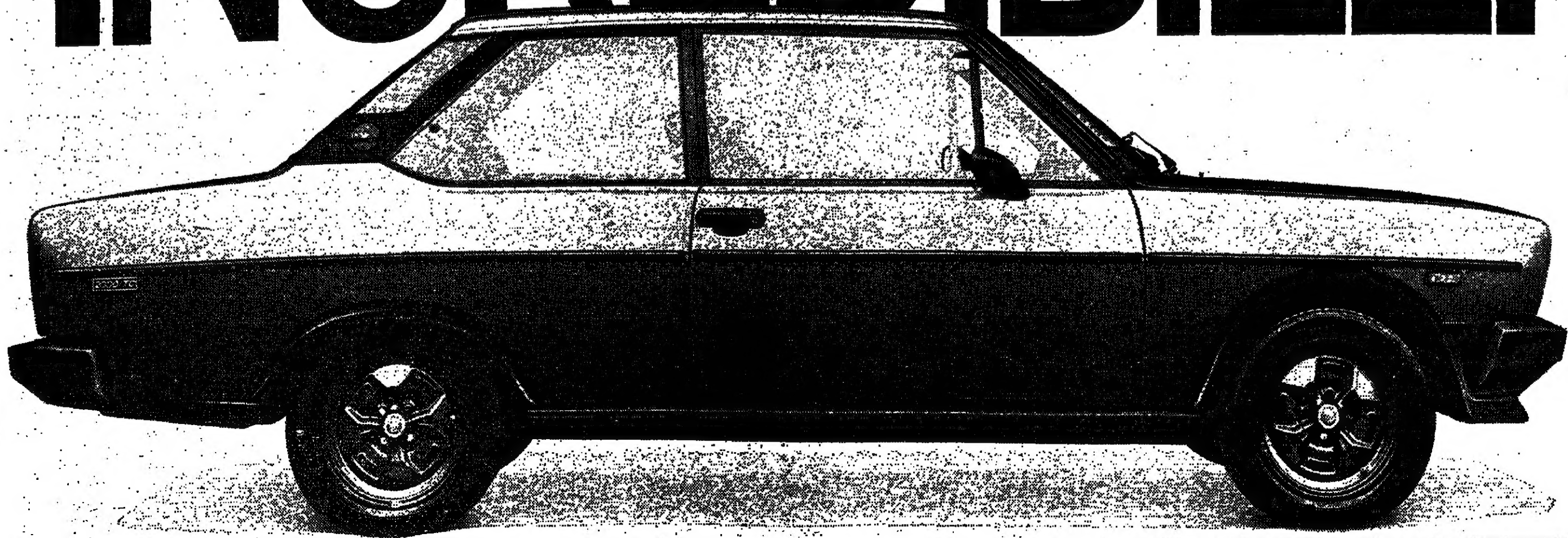


Tomorrow
Sun rises: 7.46 am
Sun sets: 4.42 pm
Moon rises: 1.40 am
Moon sets: 1.40 pm
Lighting up: 5.12 pm to 7.15 am
High water: London Bridge 10.48 am, 6.30 pm, 11.29 pm, 6.50 am, Avonmouth: 2.55 am, 10.71 am, 4.38 pm, 11.11 pm, Dover: 7.54 am, 3.71 pm, 6.30 pm, 3.35 pm, 6.20 pm, Liverpool: 8.35 am, 8.00 pm, 5.52 pm, 11.11 pm, 3.20 pm
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Saturday
London: Temp: max 6 am to 8 am, 5°C (43°F); min 6 pm to 8 pm, 2°C (36°F). Humidity: 60-70 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 24hr to 6 pm, 2.3 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,029.1 millibars, rising.
Yesterday
London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 5°C (41°F); min 6 pm to 6 pm, 1°C (34°F). Humidity: 60-70 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 2.3 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,030.1 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

| Overseas selling prices | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Australia | 91.50 | Canada | 84.00 | France | 110.00 |
| Germany | 100.00 | Italy | 100.00 | Japan | 100.00 |
| Netherlands | 100.00 | Portugal | 100.00 | Spain | 100.00 |
| Sweden | 100.00 | Switzerland | 100.00 | USA | 100.00 |
| UK | 100.00 | | | | |

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the car that took first and third places in the Monte Carlo Rally.

FIAT

HOME NEWS

Tests for children aged 9 and 13 urged to raise school standards

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

National tests for all children aged nine and 13, and the restoration of regular inspection of schools by the schools inspectorate are among proposals for raising standards in schools put forward in a pamphlet published today.

The pamphlet is written by Mr Vernon Bogdanor, senior tutor at Brasenose College, Oxford, and published by the National Council for Educational Standards, of which Mr Rhodes Boyson was chairman when a new series of papers on education, of which this is the first, were planned in December, 1978.

Bogdanor, who like the council clearly believes that academic standards in schools have been falling, maintains that in so far as there is a direct link between underachievement in schools and unemployment, the raising of standards represents one of the most vital tasks facing Britain today... an urgent priority in the struggle for economic recovery.

The government of the day should offer a lead, indicating the direction in which improvement was to be sought. Mr James Callaghan, when Prime Minister, had attempted to do that when he launched the "Great Debate" in 1976.

But that debate had petered out. "Its only practical result seems to have been the introduction of still more committees and working parties composed of those members of the education establishment who had for some time denied that conditions in schools were a cause for concern," Mr Bogdanor says.

He echoes the sentiment of Mr John Tomlinson, chairman of the Schools Council, who said that the "Great Debate" had succeeded in "merely re-

arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic".

A new debate was now needed, grounded in reality to face economic restraints, and which did not avoid questions of standards. They were politically embarrassing or offensive to the amour-propre of headmasters or local authorities.

The first step toward raising standards must be to ensure effective monitoring of school performance, he says. He calls for the reinstitution of full and regular inspections of schools by the schools inspectorate, and a strengthening of the strength of local advisers and inspectors, who tended to be too attached to the ethos of the local authority to be able to criticize it effectively.

The abolition of the 11-plus examination meant that primary schools had little incentive to achieve high standards in basic subjects. New national, standardized tests should be introduced for pupils at, say, nine and 13, to monitor the system and diagnose any weaknesses.

The results of such tests should be made public, as should the results of all public examinations, though "league tables" should be avoided. A parental choice of schools should be strengthened, and admission limits to schools, proposed under the Government's Education Bill, should be made flexible so as to allow, say, a 5 per cent variation either way around the prescribed limit.

A national teachers' professional council, similar to the General Medical Council for doctors, should be set up to weed out the minority of incompetent or idle teachers recruited during the period of teacher shortage.

Standards in Schools (National Council for Educational Standards, Kay-Shuttleworth Papers on Education, No 1, 75p).

Teachers in four schools to strike over suspension

By Our Education Correspondent

Members of the National Union of Teachers are to go on strike in four schools in Nottinghamshire from tomorrow in protest against the suspension of a nursery school teacher who refused to supervise her nursery unit of 40 children after losing one of her two full-time nannies. The four schools which will be affected by strike action tomorrow, on Wednesday and Thursday of this week are: Pinewood Infants' School, Arnold; Brinsley Primary School, Brinsley; Broom Hill Junior School, Hucknall; and

the William Sharp comprehensive school, Nottingham.

NUT members in Robert Mellors Primary School, where Mrs Eileen Crosbie, the suspended teacher, runs her nursery unit, have been instructed by the union to return to work tomorrow. The NUT said it was anxious to avoid any one group of children being penalized for too long.

Results so far from a ballot of the 2,500 NUT members in Nottingham and south Nottinghamshire show a large majority in favour of increasing the campaign in support of Mrs Crosbie, the union said.

County study shows do-it-yourself service will pay off

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

Some commuters in Nottinghamshire may soon be earning £50 to £100 a week by operating large cars or minibuses to take their friends and neighbours to work.

Studies carried out in the county's planning and transport department suggest that do-it-yourself bus services operated by individuals or groups could not only provide a better work journey than the overcrowded buses, but also improve the viability of the conventional buses by relieving them of the unprofitable peak traffic.

The charge for passengers on the do-it-yourself 12-seater bus would probably be rather more, say £1.50 return from an outlying district to central Nottingham, compared with £1 on the bus, but there would be a guaranteed seat, and the per-

sonal bus could divert to pick up and drop people. "Experience in America," Mr Bailey says, "shows that a half official car or minibus service can be successful, but there is a limit to what can be done. We have approached the problem from the other end, by trying to remove the peak."

Nottinghamshire spends £600,000 a year on bus subsidies, and like other counties is trying to reduce its expenditure further. But this amount is enough to meet only half the cost of the subsidies, and further cuts would almost certainly lead to widespread reductions in the county's bus network.

There is a powerful attraction, therefore, in any grassroots initiative that would provide the service while relieving the rates and helping conventional buses.

Britain and US seek new air deal

By Arthur Reed, Air Correspondent

British and United States government negotiators are to begin talks in London tomorrow on their air services across the North Atlantic. The Americans are likely to press for further liberalization of routes.

Both sides are expected to want to discuss the opening of further "gateway" cities into the United States.

British Airways has a London-Miami service, but Laker Airways, the independent British company, has applied to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in London for a licence to fly between London and Miami, Orlando and Tampa, all in Florida.

British negotiators will also try to secure rights for the United States for British Airways to fly to New Orleans, and for British Caledonian to serve St Louis, Missouri, and Denver, Colorado.

JPs urged to make less use of imprisonment

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates in Dorset sent more male adult offenders straight to prison in 1978 than did those in any other police area in the country, the Bristol group, Radical Alternatives to Prison (RAP), says. Second and third in the "league" were Gloucestershire and Sussex.

If all the magistrates in the country reduced their use of imprisonment to that of Dorset, 6,000 fewer men would be sent to prison each year, at an estimated minimum saving to the Exchequer of not less than £6m, RAP says.

Magistrates in Dorset, Gloucestershire and Sussex are spendthrift benches who put vengeance above care for the old and the sick.

RAP says prisons are maintained at the direct expense of social services.

Dorset sent more than 12 per cent of adult males to prison for indictable offences directly to prison during 1978 (the last

year for which statistics are available). Gwent, bottom of the table, sent only 3.56 per cent. The national average is 8.07 per cent.

RAP says: "Local justice is demonstrably inconsistent, unfair and unjust."

Analysis of the 1978 figures has disclosed that the presence of a local prison in a police court area is one of the reasons for the large variations, RAP says.

During that period crimes known to the police in England and Wales increased by 21.64 per cent. The rate of increase in known crime for the top 21 areas in the imprisonment league table was 24.56 per cent over the same period. That for the bottom 22 areas was 20.7 per cent.

Soldier killed in Belfast ambush by IRA

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

IRA gunmen used one of their favourite tactics on Saturday to kill a soldier who was in a foot patrol in west Belfast.

They held a family hostage in their Falls Road house for more than two hours as they waited for an Army target to present itself. At 10.35 am they fired on a patrol 120 yards away in Whitecourt Road. A passing civilian was also injured.

The dead man is Private Erol Pryce, aged 24, of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He came from Sheffield.

In Londonderry a march in commemoration of Bloody Sunday, when 13 people were killed by security forces during rioting eight years ago, went off peacefully.

Hotel plan commended to save historic houses

From Our Correspondent

Chichester, March and Kinsara, who has been given planning permission by the Secretary of State for the Environment to build a 60-bedroom hotel in the grounds of Goodwood House, his ancestral home in Sussex, said yesterday that 20 other owners of historic houses in Britain should do the same to save them from closure.

"The minister's decision could be very important for the conservation of the national heritage," he said. "There are about 20 historic houses in Britain which could be saved and maintained if permission

Kidney drug cost unit £6,000 a transplant

By Anabel Ferriman

A south London kidney transplant unit, which has had its money for transplants cut off because of overspending, was using a drug that cost £5,000 a patient.

A trial of £350,000 has been spent on the drug in the past 10 months at Dulwich Hospital, where 45 patients had kidney transplants and 25 previous patients had supplementary treatment. Most transplant patients receive drugs costing about £1,000.

The drug, Pressimmune, is made by Hoechst and is produced by injecting human white blood cells into horses, waiting for them to develop, taking a blood sample, and extracting the serum.

The high cost of the drug was one reason why the kidney transplant unit at Dulwich spent twice its budget this financial year. That led the commissioners appointed by the Government to run the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority to order the unit to stop carrying out transplants.

The unit was allocated £200,000 for the year up to April 1980, but spent £400,000 by December and was intending to spend another £200,000. The British Kidney Patient Association opposed its use and offered to fund it to the end of the financial year.

The commissioners and the association have been negotiating on the offer because if another 20 transplants are carried out before April it will involve the authority in increased expenditure for the next financial year. A decision is expected today.

Mr Michael Bewick, the kidney transplant surgeon at Dulwich Hospital, defended his use of Pressimmune because it provided an 80 per cent success rate in difficult cases, against 70 per cent for the drugs he used on patients at Guy's Hospital.

Mr Bewick said he had been penalized by the commissioners because he had worked out the cost of his programme, thus making it easier for them to cut it, while many other departments had not done so.

He said that the financial administration of the health service was in confusion because no one knew how much any operation cost. If an authority was asked to make a 10 per cent cut, it did not know how to go about it.

The cost of a kidney transplant using Pressimmune was no more expensive, because the patient did not have to be rejected, and therefore had to be in hospital for a shorter time, he said.

Mr Gordon Marsh, the area administrator, disagreed. "We estimate that with Pressimmune kidney transplants cost about £10,000 for the first year, whereas with the other drugs used between £5,000 and £6,000 for that year," he said.

The Department of Health and Social Security said that there was no committee within the department that considered the cost-effectiveness of drugs.

WEST EUROPE

Danish decision rules out nuclear power for rest of century

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen, Jan 27

The Social Democratic minority Government in Denmark has postponed indefinitely a decision on introducing nuclear power stations.

The postponement, announced yesterday by Mr Poul Nielson, the Energy Minister, and Mr Ivar Nørgaard, Minister for the Economy and Finance, means that Denmark will not now be in a position to adopt nuclear power in this century.

Previous Government policy had aimed at reaching a decision on the issue of nuclear power this year, and putting the matter to the nation in a referendum next year, as Sweden is to do in March.

Nuclear power has figured in Danish energy plans since 1976, with 1991 the earliest feasible date for a power station to go into action, but doubts as to its use on environmental, safety and economic grounds, have been exacerbated by the Harrisburg incident in the United States.

Moreover, public opinion is split on the issue, and there is a strong anti-nuclear lobby both inside and outside the Folketing (Parliament), where there no longer exists a majority for it.

The Government says it has failed to find a satisfactory solution to the thorny problem of disposal of radioactive waste. A decision on a nuclear power station has also posed an intractable problem. In a small, highly populated country such as Denmark there are simply too few sites sufficiently far away from large population centres in which to site an atomic power station.

Nonetheless, the right-wing parties in Parliament are dismayed at the Government decision which to many observers seems tantamount to a final rejection of nuclear power. With no natural resources of its own, Denmark relies on oil for almost 80 per cent of its energy.

Its balance of payments difficulties have been accentuated by the oil imports from the Middle East.

There are, however, a few bright spots on the horizon. Denmark expects that more than one-third of its energy needs will be covered from its North Sea oil and gas fields by the mid-1980s. In addition, electric power stations are being converted rapidly to coal, imported chiefly from Poland, South Africa and Australia, thus reducing Denmark's dependence on oil.

Gas links plan: The Norwegian and Danish Prime Ministers and energy ministers will meet next week to discuss an important step forward in distribution of Scandinavian natural gas. The agreement, the Sunday edition of the Danish newspaper Aktuelt reported today.

Norway was understood to be ready to link its gas lines with Denmark's, piping the fuel to the Danish coast near the Swedish border. The plan could also connect the Scandinavian network to the West German natural gas system.

Aktuelt said the meeting was arranged during unofficial talks a few days ago near Copenhagen. The Danish Prime Minister, Mr Poul Nielson, the Norwegian Prime Minister, Mr Anker Jørgensen, his Danish counterpart, —Agence France-Press.

The Pope blames divisions for extending Dutch synod

Rome, Jan 27.—The Pope said today that lingering problems between liberals and conservatives had forced an extension of the special synod of Dutch bishops taking part in the special Vatican synod at the Vatican.

The Pope's first public remarks about the substance of the two-week secret meeting of Dutch bishops came during his weekly blessing to a crowd in St Peter's Square.

The heartfelt thoughts of the Dutch bishops taking part in the special Vatican synod go out to the Christ who lives in and unites the Church," the Pope said. "The richness of the discussions, and the multiplicity of problems requires that the work of the synod be extended into the first days of the coming week."

Even if the Church is humanly, divided, there never ceases to be a body."

The special synod of seven Dutch bishops and 10 Vatican representatives was to have ended yesterday but the Vatican announced its extension on Friday saying that more work was to be done.

A Vatican statement yesterday said the bishops were told it was their duty to promote and supervise religious instruction "in full harmony with the universal communion of the Catholic Church."

It added: "It was underlined that the Dutch catechesis is not without defects."

The defects were apparent in insufficient propagation of the Faith and in "exaggerated preference for one single method."

—UPI ed Reuter.

Maltese leader criticizes 'taunt' by British ships

From Our Own Correspondent, Valletta, Jan 27

Prime Minister, claimed at a public meeting yesterday that two British warships with helicopters flying overhead had entered Maltese territorial waters last month. Britain had admitted that naval units had been within 12 miles of Malta but had said Malta's territorial waters only extended three miles.

Mr Mintoff described the incident as "showing off and a taunt." In view of this Malta needed to reorganize its defence system. "Had we been asked we would have sunk them," he said. "We are never going to agree with them. We served them well during the last war."

A British High Commission spokesman said the ships could not have been within eight miles of Malta during routine exercises. The Maltese Government had been informed and no hostile act was intended.

Russians win European chess championship

From Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent, Skara, Sweden, Jan 27

With a comfortable win of 5-3 over Yugoslavia in the last round of the European team chess championship finals here, the Soviet Union retained the title by the impressive margin of 7½ pts over its nearest rival, England 4-3.

There was a close struggle for the second place between England and Hungary. In the end, the English team, led by the world champion, Bobby Fischer, won 4-3.

The third place was won by the Soviet Union, led by the world champion, Anatoly Karpov, who won 4-3. The fourth place was won by Yugoslavia, led by the world champion, Tigran Petrosian, who won 4-3.

Charting a course across the Ulster cauldron

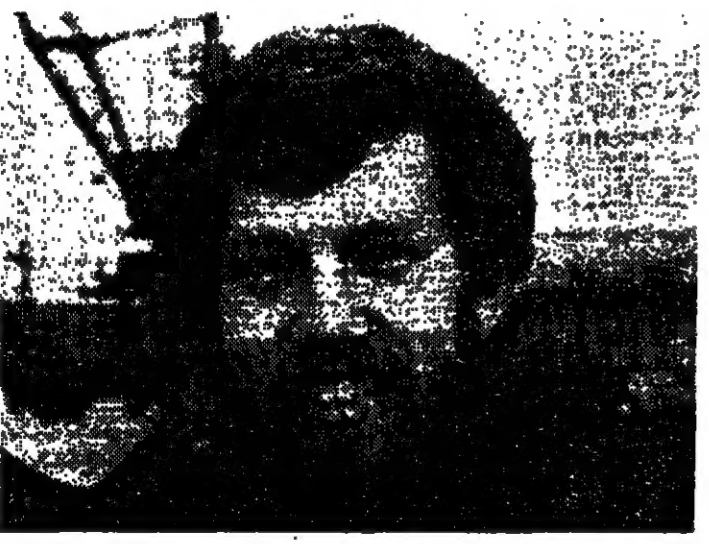
By John Chartres

The Ocean Youth Club, the voluntary organization which seeks to improve young people's characters by getting them to sea in small ships, hopes to contribute to better community relations in Northern Ireland.

A ninth vessel is to be added to the club's fleet of large yachts based around the United Kingdom. She is to be permanently based in Northern Ireland.

She is a 12-berth Nicholson 35 yawl, nearing completion in the builders' yard at Gosport and due to go into commission in June under the command of Andrew Brown, 31, of Chester, who, at 21, will be the youngest of the club's full-time skippers. He has been sailing in its vessels as an instructor and mate since he was 15.

The new vessel will take young people aged between 15 and 21 on seven-day and weekend voyages. Under club rules, their crews will often be of both sexes and come from all social classes and it is hoped



Mr Andrew Brown, skipper of the yacht for Ulster youth.

from all religious persuasions. A week's voyage costs £79, including food.

The club has been sending at least one of its 72-foot ketches to Northern Ireland

for a month every summer since 1973. The demand for places last year led to the club chartering the 100-foot ketch Halcyon from the Southampton School of Navigation to supple-

ment their own St Francis Drake, which is based at Holyhead. A total of 150 young people were taken on voyages in a month.

Mr David James, the club's director, said: "We do not have any questions about religious backgrounds. Our idea of an ideal crew is one containing young people with educational backgrounds ranging from bachelors to Roedean. We set out to give young people a taste of adventure and to give them the experience of living and working together in circumstances where they have to depend on each other for their comfort and safety."

Although the new vessel, for which a name has yet to be selected, will be primarily for the benefit of young people in Northern Ireland, applications for places from the republic will be given equal consideration.

The Nicholson 55 will cost £110,000, of which about £32,000 has been found. The rest is to be raised by a fund-raising drive, mainly in Northern Ireland.

On January 21 Mr Sirs stated in a letter to branch secretaries that after the executive had considered a progress report: "It was agreed that the strike was developing into a confrontation between the government and the trade union."

There was evidence that a strike in the private steel sector would have a disastrous effect on the rest of the economy. It was agreed that the strike was developing into a confrontation between the government and the trade union."

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Law Report January 26 1980

Private sector steel strike 'would have disastrous effect throughout British industries'

Dunlop Steels Ltd and Others v Sirs and Others

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Ackner.

It is strongly arguable that a strike which has the object of coercing the government is not a strike "in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute" within the meaning of section 13(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, as amended; and where such a proposed strike would have disastrous economic consequences for the country, the court in its discretion has jurisdiction to grant an injunction to restrain it.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Dunlop Steels Ltd and 15 other private sector steel companies, against the refusal of Mr Justice Kenneth Jones in chambers to grant an injunction restraining the defendants, Mr William Sirs, Mr Leslie Bramley and Mr E. Makepiece, sued on their own behalf and on behalf of all members of the executive council of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, from instructing members of the confederation to break their conditions of employment with the plaintiffs by striking or interfering with the supply of steel or steel products to or from the plaintiffs or by taking any other industrial action.

Section 13(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, as amended by section 3(2) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Act, 1976, provides: "An act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be actionable in tort on the ground only—(a) that it induces another person to break a contract or interfere or induces any other person to interfere with its performance."

Section 17(2) of the 1974 Act, as amended by the Employment Protection Act, 1975, section 125 (1), Schedule 16, Part III paragraph 6, and the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Act, 1976, section 3(2) provides: "(2) It is hereby declared that an application is made to a court, pending the trial of an action, for an interlocutory injunction and the party against whom the injunction is sought claims that he acted in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute, the court shall, in exercising its discretion whether or not to grant the injunction, have regard to the likelihood of that party succeeding at the trial of the action in establishing the matter or matters which would, under any provision of section 13, afford a defence to the action."

Section 29 provides: "(1) In the Act 'trade dispute' means a dispute between employers and workers, or between workers and workers, which is connected with one or more of the following:—(a) terms and conditions of employment, or the physical conditions in which any workers are required to work;—(b) the number of workers to be employed, or the physical conditions in which any workers are required to work;—(c) the physical conditions in which any workers are required to work;—(d) the physical conditions in which any workers are required to work;—(e) the physical conditions in which any workers are required to work;—(f) the physical conditions in which any workers are required to work;—(g) the physical conditions in which any workers are required to work;—(h) the physical conditions in which any workers are required to work;—(i) the physical conditions in which any workers are required to work;—(j) the physical conditions in which any workers are required to work;—(k) the physical 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OVERSEAS

President Tito hears report on steps taken by Yugoslavian forces to test their readiness

From Davao, Trevisan

As President Tito continues to make spectacular recovery—already seeing his aides and attending to business from his hospital ward—last week's anxiety gave way to relief. Yugoslavians gained confidence in safeguarding itself by demonstrating political unity and military preparedness.

Today President Tito saw General Nikola Ljubic, the Minister of Defence. A brief communiqué said he was informed of the measures the Yugoslav armed forces had taken to test their readiness in the face of world tension, and in particular the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

A combined military exercise was carried out over the weekend by the Belgrade Garrison. The chief of staff of the Yugoslav armed forces disclosed that fairly large foreign military exercises "close to Yugoslav borders" had aroused Yugoslav suspicion, and that demonstrations that Yugoslavia would not be caught unprepared.

He did not specify the country or countries concerned, but recently there were reports of exercises in Hungary and in Bulgaria. He said that whereas the Yugoslavians always made a point of informing their neighbours of their own exercises this was not done by the neighbours in this particular case.

Yugoslavians are, however, at pains to emphasize that the

military measures are normal, routine reaction to the general world tension. But they obviously had a special meaning, particularly as some sources claim that the measures had been deliberately delayed in the expectation of some clarification by countries concerned.

The invasion of Afghanistan has already provoked firm Yugoslav reactions. A senior official said that the Soviet Union's credibility was seriously damaged. It has confirmed the Yugoslavians in the belief that Russia has never really given up hope of crushing Yugoslavia to block the road to the west, and the message has been driven home that this is still the case.

The anniversary of the death of Mr. Edvard Kardelj, architect of the Yugoslav political system who died last year and whose memoirs were published yesterday, provided the opportunity for emphasizing this awareness.

A senior Yugoslav official speaking at the ceremony, continued the continuing practice of "forcing socialism upon other peoples" through "fraternal aid" or by military intervention such as "we are now witnessing in Afghanistan".

In his memoirs Mr. Kardelj, whom the Russians never trusted, recalled that in spite of formal agreements and the Russians' pledges to respect

Yugoslavia's independence, he was convinced that they never gave up hope of drawing the country into the Soviet block. He described the pressure to which the Russians had put him on several occasions from 1948 onwards under Stalin, and then under Khrushchev.

Another senior Yugoslav official, Dr. Vladimir Bakarić, recalling a visit to Moscow in 1949, on the eve of the break in relations between the two countries, quoted Marshal Tito as saying: "The Russians will bully you if you let them."

Yugoslavia is facing a grave economic situation as a result of the overvalued exchange rate and the world energy crisis. Inflation is up to 30 per cent, unemployment to 15 per cent of the total labour force, the balance of payments deficit has risen to close on \$6.5m (about £3m) and the country's debt with foreign banks total \$13m.

The Yugoslavians assert that the EEC's failure to give better opportunities to Yugoslav exports has inflicted serious damage on the country. As a result over 30 per cent of Yugoslav trade is now with the Comecon (eastern block) countries.

This is something the Yugoslavians have for years been anxious to avoid. They say they had no choice because the EEC negotiations kept dragging on. The Russians could use economic pressure to hurt Yugoslavia.

Police play down bank terrorists' tie to ANC

From Eric Marsden

Cape Town, Jan 27
The bodies of the three terrorists shot by police after they had held 25 hostages for six hours in a Pretoria bank have been identified, but police refuse to name them except to say that two were from the Pretoria district and one from Soweto, the Johannesburg black township. They had been on the police wanted list for some time.

The Government has also decided to withhold details of the political demands made by the gang, apparently to deny publicity to the banned African National Congress (ANC), to which the raiders said they belonged.

Senior police officers who talked to the terrorists have denied that the men asked them for the release of Mr. Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader who is in jail on Robben Island near Cape Town.

Some of the hostages had said this demand was made to them, and that the gang also wanted an aircraft to fly them to Maputo.

Brigadier Johan Coetzee, chief of the police security branch, said that the demand was made to the gang, but that a tiny transmitter which enabled police to monitor conversations between the three men later. This and another device dropped down an air shaft alerted the police to the gang's decision to start shooting. The hostages, police said, A special unit then stormed the bank.

The three raiders were killed outright but one of them first shot dead Miss Cindy Anderson, aged 19, a bank teller. Another hostage, Mrs. A. Klerk, who was also a bank employee, died in hospital on Saturday morning. Two other women and a police constable were still in a critical condition today in a Pretoria hospital.

Suggestions that the attack, in which hostages were taken for the first time in South Africa, marks an escalation of the terrorist campaign are discounted here. Mr. Louis Le Grange, Minister of Police described the siege as "a Catholic, Communist, though he said it could happen again. "I have no reason to believe this type of thing will happen frequently."

He said the terrorists had almost certainly come from Angola where the ANC has been active for years, and that they were being trained for attacks on South Africa.

Leaders of the two main opposition parties, the Progressive Federal Party (PFP) and New Republic Party, joined the Government in congratulating the police in ending the siege, but the PFP said the Government's political terrorism must be combined with faster political change.

More operations: The ANC said in Lusaka today that its men would stage more operations after the hour-long seizure in Pretoria, and in future would kill all their hostages if police intervened.

"The episode has shown us just how ruthless the police are prepared to be. We will have to match their ruthlessness regardless of the consequences," a spokesman said.

He said that the ANC saluted the three men "for dying for such a noble cause. They will be buried in the full knowledge that others will continue the struggle."—Agence France-Press.

Troops kill 17 guerrillas in El Salvador

San Salvador, Jan 27—Seventeen guerrillas were killed here today by a clash with members of El Salvador's Army at Guatepec, 33 miles west of here.

Three soldiers were wounded in the fighting, which broke out when police and soldiers arrested guerrillas in the town. The guerrillas, members of the Marxist Popular Liberation Forces movement, occupied the town, erecting barricades at access points. Authorities who regained control of the town after the guerrillas' clash set up a night of violence.

In a night of violence a bomb destroyed the headquarters of El Salvador's Girl Guide movement here and guerrillas exploded at other sites in the town. Guerrillas denied rumours that they had been used for political meetings. More than 70 people have been killed in guerrilla violence in El Salvador during the past week—Agence France-Press.

US asks Japan for details of Soviet spy scandal

Tokyo, Jan 27—The United States has asked Japan for a detailed report on the leak of military secrets in a Soviet spy case in its Defence Agency, government sources said today.

They said the secrets passed to the Soviet Union by a retired army general and two officers on active service included information provided by the United States under the United States-Japan security treaty, as well as information collected by Japanese intelligence. The sources believed that military intelligence on China was involved.

General Shigen Nagano, Chief of Staff of the Ground Self-Defence Force, will hand in his resignation tomorrow to take the blame for the spy scandal. Sources in the Defence Agency said he would be replaced by General Toshimichi Suzuki, commander of the force's central district division. Disciplinary action would be

taken against about a dozen senior officers including General Nagano and General Akira Watarai, the deputy director of the Defence Agency, who would be ordered to take a 10 per cent cut in their pay.

They said the secrets passed to the Soviet Union by a retired army general and two officers on active service included information provided by the United States under the United States-Japan security treaty, as well as information collected by Japanese intelligence. The sources believed that military intelligence on China was involved.

Greeks seek reintegration in Nato

From Mario Modiano

Athens, Jan 27

Urgent Greek defence problems resulting from new tensions between East and West, especially in conjunction with possible developments in the Balkans, were reviewed at a high-level meeting held in Athens over the weekend under the chairmanship of Mr. Constantine Karamanlis, the Prime Minister.

The meeting, the second such consultation in 10 days, was attended by Mr. Evangelos Averoff, the Defence Minister, Mr. George Rallis, the Foreign Minister, General Ioannis Damos, the newly-appointed Defence Under-Secretary, and General Agamemnon Gratsios, who succeeded General Damos as Chief of the National Defence General Staff.

No details were released of what was discussed but it is evident that the world crisis emanating from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and President Tito's sudden illness,

have been posing problems for Greece's defence, adding urgency to the need for an end to the present ambiguity in the country's military links with Nato.

Western efforts to overcome Turkey's objections to an unconditional return of Greece to the integrated military structure of the alliance, chiefly as regards operational jurisdiction in the Aegean, have apparently been unsuccessful so far, although General Bernard Rogers, Nato's Supreme Commander in Europe, is persevering in his quest for a reintegration formula that is accepted also by Turkey.

President Tito too, is known to be eager to see Greece once again firmly anchored in Nato, both as a deterrent to a Soviet adventure in the Balkans, directly or by proxy, and as a Western lifeline for Yugoslavia in case of war.

In recent years, Greek and Yugoslav defence ministers and military chiefs established frequent contact

Another concern for the Greek Government and the military chiefs is the maintenance of a balance of forces between Greece and Turkey which is in danger of being tipped in favour of the latter by the large-scale military aid promised under the American-Turkish defence cooperation agreement signed earlier this month.

This is further accentuated by the aid pledged by Nato countries.

An American-Greek defence cooperation agreement, initiated in 1977 but never signed, had been aimed at maintaining a 70-to-10 ratio in American military aid granted to Greece and Turkey, in exchange for bases in those countries, precisely in order to maintain an equilibrium in the Aegean.

The agreement will have to be renegotiated in the light of what the Turks who are evidently tougher negotiators than the Greeks, have wrested from Washington.

Promotions within China's leadership expected

Peking, Jan 27—A pattern of changes in the Chinese provinces and military regions which, diplomats suggest, could herald promotions in the central Government.

This would be in line with reports on a speech made by Mr. Deng Xiaoping, the senior Deputy Prime Minister, on January 16.

Chinese sources said that Mr. Deng had spoken of the need to promote experienced staff and for a change in style to encourage leadership by example rather than by decree.

Changes are also appearing in the central ministries. Western diplomatic sources report the appointment of Mr. Gao Yangwen, a former Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, as Minister for Coal. His predecessor, Mr. Xiao Han, was, according to the sources, promoted to the post of Deputy Minister in the State Economic Commission.

At the provincial level, Sichuan province and the city of Shanghai both have new Communist Party second secretaries, which could release the leadership posts in Peking.

The new party second secretary in Sichuan, China's most populous province, was named in a Chinese press report as Mr. Tan Qiong, former first secretary in Qinghai province, who is credited by diplomatic sources as one of the most experienced provincial administrators.

A report in the Shanghai newspaper *Wenhui* said a new secretary for the province's party committee, Mr. Chen Guodong, had been chair-

man at a meeting on Friday to strengthen the ties between civilian and military authorities in Shanghai.

A radio broadcast from Anhui has also reported that the new provincial governor is Mr. Zhang Jingfu, a former Finance Minister and at present a member of the State Finance and Economic Commission. The party first secretary in Anhui is Mr. Zhao Ziyang and Mr. Wan Li respectively. The party first secretary and mayor of Shanghai is Mr. Peng Chang.

There have been suggestions that all three could be promoted to posts of deputy prime ministers in the central Government. This would explain the moves of senior staff to their areas.

Taiyuan, a deputy premier of the Peking military region and former commander of the Inner Mongolia military district, has filled the vacant post of commander of the Chengdu region, which takes in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces. In the province of Guangdong, two local Communist Party officials, Mr. Liu Kexu, secretary of a production brigade, and Mr. Liu Tugui, a deputy, were at a recent public ceremony sentenced to death for killing seven people who criticized their illegal activities during the cultural revolution according to the *Sinat* daily newspaper.

A woman was sentenced to 10 years removing birth control devices for pay from more than 29 women—Reuters and AP.

Critical paper closed in Nicaragua

Managua, Jan 27—The revolutionary Government of Nicaragua has shut down the newspaper *El Pueblo* and arrested its editors, who were accused of being counter-revolutionaries and subversive plans to stimulate the economy.

Commandant Daniel Ortega, a member of the ruling council, said in an announcement yesterday that the newspaper was occupied by the military three days ago and that the origin of its machinery would be investigated. In its last editions *El Pueblo* criticized the Government's plan to give "great opportunities to the bourgeoisie and the businessmen and few benefits to the exploited masses".

It also criticized the presence of the bourgeoisie in the Government and urged the workers to elect a new government. Commandant Ortega said the paper's editors would be tried by tribunals—AP.

Prisoners of conscience



Argentina; Dr Marchesini

By Caroline Moorehead

Dr Victor Carlos Marchesini, a lawyer and secondary school teacher, aged 49, has been in prison in Argentina for more than three months without having been charged or brought to trial. Frequent inquiries about the reason for his arrest have brought only the reply that he is held for his "links with subversion" and for defending "subversive elements in the courts".

At the time of his arrest Dr Marchesini was a respected figure in local politics. He was twice elected provincial deputy in Misiones, and was president of the parliamentary group of the Radical Civic Union, the majority party in the province. He was also a former president of the Misiones Bar Association.

In 1973 Dr Marchesini made a series of critical attacks on the Government of President Maria Estela Peron, which he accused of excessive repression. Two weeks after the military coup of 1976 he was arrested.

Dr Marchesini spent the first years of his detention at Resistencia prison, and when that closed he was moved to Caseros, a modern jail in Buenos Aires, where many political detainees are held. There have been numerous complaints about Caseros, that there is a shortage of food and that prisoners are held in constant isolation. Dr Marchesini is said to be in extremely poor health.

Both the United Nations and the Organization of American States have protested against his continuous detention.

As someone charged with "subversion" he is now in the hands of a special military tribunal. A "subversive" in Argentina today is anyone who wishes to achieve his ideological ends "by means other than those contained in the rules governing the country's political, economic and social life".

Amnesty International believes that there are 8,000 people in custody in Argentina. Dr Marchesini is one of the few who has not only never been brought to trial, but who faces indefinite imprisonment.

The Catholic controversy

Parallels with the Sakharov case

Tübingen—Professor Hans Küng accuses the Roman Catholic Church of trying to solve the problem he poses in much the same way as the Soviet Union deals with its dissidents.

His own case, says the recently-banned Swiss theologian, is a striking parallel to that of Mr. Andrei Sakharov, the leading Soviet dissident.

He and Mr. Sakharov, his reasoning goes, are loyal members of their communities, one of the Church, the other of the Soviet Union. Both see that their respective systems function badly and both believe they must be made more democratic in order to survive.

"Since the Soviet dogmas do not permit discussion they transported him to another city. The Church wants to silence me."

But the ban on his teaching theology does not solve the problem of the Church, he says.

From the book-lined modern study with its view over the snow-dusted Swabian hills, Professor Küng is determined to carry on his fight to change the methods and structure of the Church's government in the far-off states of the Vatican.

He is equally determined to fight the attempt to have him removed from the theological faculty at Tübingen University.

He has deliberately chosen a difficult and thorny path which he could easily have avoided. For Professor Küng is in no danger of being dismissed from Tübingen.

He could go on teaching as he liked in another faculty, for instance philosophy. But this was never formally extended to Würzburg, where Tübingen lies, when the two states became a federal Land after the 1933-1945 war.

Würzburg would appear to be governed by the 1933 Reichskoncordat between Hitler and the Pope. But the Concordat is a dead letter, and the Pope's successor, Pope John Paul II, which is vague on this point.

If Professor Küng's appeal to the Land Education Minister, yields to the bishop's wishes, Professor Küng will appeal indicating a list of legal irregularities he says the Vatican itself has committed. The Tübingen University is run by the Land



Professor Hans Küng.

of Baden-Württemberg and professors are appointed by the Minister of Education. In this case, the theological faculty, the approval of the local bishop. What happens if, as in this case, the bishop asks for him to be removed?

His removal would be fairly simple under the pre-war concordat between the former state of Baden and the Vatican. But this was never formally extended to Würzburg, where Tübingen lies, when the two states became a federal Land after the 1933-1945 war.

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fight would be long and extremely complicated.

Hans Küng says he has always been willing to go and have a serious discussion of his views. But he is not prepared to submit himself to an "inquisition" which denies the right of the accused to know details of the charges against him, where he is not able to nominate his own defence, where the accused is at the same time the judge of the case and where there is no right of appeal.

"A common criminal has more rights than a Catholic theologian," he says. "How can the Church ask for human rights in the world when there are not the most elementary human rights in the Church?"

The Vatican ban has left deep resentment between Professor Küng and the West German bishops who believe they have done everything humanly possible to avoid a break and seek some form of compromise, even at the cost of dragging the painful business out for 10 years. They maintain they have wronged considerable concessions from the Vatican on his behalf.

The professor is unyielding, but concedes that he was helped by the Cardinal Julius Döpfner, former president of the episcopal conference, but maintains that his successor, Cardinal Josef Höffner, may bear more responsibility for the ban than Rome itself. "If he had said it would be a disgrace for the Church in Germany, I think the Pope would not have done it," he said.

The bishop's spokesman gives the impression that the real cause of the break is the obstinate, not to say arrogant nature of the troublesome theologian.

In the cold light of a winter's afternoon in Tübingen these traits look more like uncompromising honesty. Swiss straight-forwardness and a passionate belief that he is right. Other Catholic scholars have suffered the same fate and the world has hardly noticed. Maybe these qualities, combined with an ability to put difficult issues in simple terms and an inborn flair for public relations, are the stuff that good dissidents are made of.

Patricia Clough

Why I remain a Catholic

After an unjust and unfair procedure on the part of the highest ecclesiastical authorities, I was deprived of the title of "Catholic theologian"; an attempt was made to drive me out of my faculty of Catholic theology after 20 years of teaching there and to thrust me—without being over-scrupulous about methods—into the margin of my Catholic community.

Very shortly after I had completed 25 years as a priest and celebrated my jubilee. In face of harassment and threats, it is possible to offer declarations of loyalty or to make professions of faith?

Under these circumstances, why do I remain a Catholic? This is certainly not merely a personal question for myself. Innumerable Catholics in the whole world must be wondering if the wheel of history is to be turned back in our Catholic Church to the time before Pope John and the council.

Are the new open-mindedness, readiness for dialogue, humaneness and Christian spirit again to yield to the triumphalism disavowed by the council? Are Roman authorities again to abolish the freedom of theology, to intimidate critical theologians and to be allowed to discipline them by the use of spiritual power? Are bishops to be merely recipients of their own beliefs, collaborators of our joy, not masters of our faith, to adopt a saying of the apostle.

But above all there was Tübingen: Protestant Tübingen with its Catholic faculty. Here as professor I have increasingly become a part of this faculty, which from its foundation has had a great history, not only of success, but also of conflict. How many Catholic theologians in Tübingen, including some who are still alive and teaching, have been admonished, put on the index, harassed and disciplined. There is nothing new under the Tübingen sun.

It was from this Catholic faculty of Tübingen, in the free air of Tübingen, that both my books and those of my colleagues emerged and without which they would scarcely have been possible or at any rate only in another form. It was possible for a Catholic theology to emerge here, which—unlike the former controversial theology—has a truly ecclesiological character and seeks to combine two things: loyalty to the Catholic heritage and openness to Christendom.

Discussion, particularly with Protestant colleagues, was of decisive importance, not in order to disprove the Catholic reality, still less to secure it, but in an ecumenical spirit to throw new light on the gospel and to gain a deeper understanding of it.

Why do I remain a Catholic? Not merely because of my Catholic origins, but also because of this life-task of mine which I grasped as a great opportunity and which as a Catholic theologian I can fulfil appropriately only in the context of the Tübingen faculty of Catholic theology. What then, properly speaking, is the Catholic reality for the sake of which I want to remain a Catholic theologian?

Who is a Catholic theologian? In accordance with the original meaning of the word and with ancient tradition, anyone can describe himself as a Catholic theologian if he is aware of being obliged in his theology to the "Catholic"—that is, to the "whole", the "universal", comprehensive, total—Church. This has two dimensions: temporal and spatial.

Catholicity in time: A theologian is Catholic if he is aware of being united with the whole Church, that is, with the Church of all times. He will therefore not describe from the outset certain centuries as "un-Christian" or "unevangelical". He is sure that the Church, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ and tried, so far as it is possible for human beings in their frailty and fallibility, to live according to his example. Protestant radicalism on the other hand (not to be confused with theological radicality) is always in danger of wanting unhistorically to begin at zero and so to pass from Jesus to Paul, from Paul to Augustine, and then in a great leap to pass over the middle ages to Luther and Calvin and from that point to leap across one's own "orthodox" tradition to the more recent Church Fathers or better—heads of schools.

The Catholic theologian, in contrast, will always start from the fact that there was never a time when the gospel was left without witness and he will try to learn from the Church of the past. While insisting on the necessity of critical scrutiny, he will never overlook the boundary points and danger signals which the Church has set for itself in its history and struggle for the one true faith, often at times of great distress and danger, set up in the form of creeds and definitions to distinguish between good and bad interpretation of the message.

He will never neglect the positive and negative experiences of his fathers and brothers in theology. It is precisely his critical scrutiny that the Catholic theologian is interested in the continuity which is preserved through all disruptions.

Catholicity in space: A theologian is Catholic if he is aware of being united with the Church of all nations and continents. He will therefore not orient himself only to the Church of his country or to a national Church and will not isolate himself from the Church as a whole.

Protestant particularism, on the other hand, is confused with evangelicalism. Protestantism is a confession of faith, not a confession of faith. It is inclined to orient itself to the locally restricted Church, its faith and its life, and to be content with a theological (occasionally intellectually highly cultivated) proclamation of the faith.

It is in this twofold sense then that I want to be and remain a Catholic theologian and to defend the truth of the Catholic faith in Catholic depth and breadth. And there is no doubt that the number of those who describe themselves as Protestant or Evangelical can be and are in fact Catholic in this sense—particularly in Tübingen. There ought to be joy at this even on the part of the institutional Church.

The criterion of what is Catholic.

Does this affirmation of what is Catholic in time and space, depth and breadth, mean that we have to accept more or less

table, unfruitful "fortress" (Cardinal Ottaviani's term) in this modern society of ours?

One thing must be made clear from the beginning. It is not any liking for theoretical problems which makes me raise this question, but the necessity of defence. For the doubts about my Catholicity are not mine, they are raised by certain authorities and hierarchies.

I have continually spoken out for a genuine pastoral primacy in the sense of spiritual responsibility, internal leadership and active concern for the welfare of the Church as a whole. It would of course be a primacy, not of dominion, but of unselfish service, exercised in responsibility before the Lord of the Church and lived in unpretentious brotherliness.

It would be a primacy, not in the spirit of a Roman imperialism with religious trimmings, such as I came to know quite closely under Pius XII during my seven years of study in Rome; but a primacy in the spirit of Jesus Christ, as it was illustrated for me in the figures of Gregory the Great and Pope John.

These were popes who expected, not servile submissiveness, uncritical devotion, sentimental idolization but loyal collaboration, constructive criticism and constant prayer on their behalf, the observance of our joy, not masters of our faith, to adopt a saying of the apostle.

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Motor racing

Arnoux's smile grows broader after first grand prix win

Rockets

Smart pays for his error

Tennis

Unpleasant epilogue to Connors victory

Middlesex al

McEnroe, who knew how dangerous Sadri could be, was repeatedly testy about one thing or another (see page 19).

most caught | **Captain inspir**

Rugby League

Rovers regain Casey for a record fee

[illegible]

French crow in triumph

[illegible]

Rowing
Littlewoods
back
Kingston
four

The selectors no doubt will wish to see the issue to be resolved as quickly as possible. The international Olympic committee is short with the Olympic Games scheduled to take place in Athens. It will be a sad omen if at the end of the day two to three unsuccessful coxed fours were left waiting for an Olympic place, especially if the slower combination in coxed fours could well be either lighter and dry or scrambling for a place in the hastily reformed coxed pair which is hardly the best preparation for the supposed


Rackets

Smart pays for his error

his world use derence.

Gooding followers in the United States will be treated to a bumper State on December 13 following the death of the middleweight Willie Classen, resumed there last night with referees intervening in three bouts.

At Landover, Maryland, Sugar y Leonard makes his first



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bl
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Hockey

Middlesex almost caught

West German speed skater, and the last time he had been in the hospital, of course should not matter much in ice skating, she yet trouble finding the right balance. "I don't know," she answered the question in a somewhat overdone solemnity. Ann Coultrill, 26, is a former national champion, established such national support with Miss Coultrill and she said she did not know—no trusting to herself—before to be in the hospital.

"I don't know," she said, "I myself a new level last night and she and her average mark in the world. I don't know if the woman is nudging the high flyers. At this new level, at her age,

Captain inspires recovery

[illegible]

Athletics

US woman's mile record

The target for the girl voted young athlete of the year, after setting up a string of British intermediate records last season, is a 400 metres place in Moscow.

Bryce said: "I don't see there is time for the European event. She has a hectic programme and

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| High jump | W. Mules | Christinaford | |
| 100m | J. D. 11.1 | 800m | C. R. 4.30 |
| 200m | Edinburgh SH | 1,600m | C. R. 5.50 |
| 400m | Edinburgh SH | 3,200m | C. R. 12.00 |
| 800m | L. Jones | 6,400m | M. W. 22.00 |
| 1,600m | C. R. 11.50 | 12,800m | C. R. 47.00 |
| 3,200m | J. Macdonald | 25,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 6,400m | C. R. 2.00.00 | 51,200m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 12,800m | C. R. 4.00.00 | 102,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 |
| 25,600m | C. R. 1.40.00 | 204,800m | C. R. 3.30.00 |
| 51,200m | C. R. 7.00.00 | 409,600m | C. R. 15.00.00 |
| 102,400m | C. R. 3.00.00 | 819,200m | C. R. 7.00.00 |
| 204,800m | C. R. 14.00.00 | 1,638,400m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 409,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 3,276,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 819,200m | C. R. 2.00.00 | 6,553,600m | C. R. 4.00.00 |
| 1,638,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 13,107,200m | C. R. 17.00.00 |
| 3,276,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 26,214,400m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 6,553,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 52,428,800m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 13,107,200m | C. R. 4.00.00 | 104,857,600m | C. R. 8.00.00 |
| 26,214,400m | C. R. 17.00.00 | 209,715,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 52,428,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 419,430,400m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 104,857,600m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 838,860,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 209,715,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 1,677,721,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 419,430,400m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 3,355,443,200m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 838,860,800m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 6,710,886,400m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 1,677,721,600m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 13,421,772,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 3,355,443,200m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 26,843,545,600m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 6,710,886,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 53,687,091,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 13,421,772,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 107,374,182,400m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 26,843,545,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 214,748,364,800m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 53,687,091,200m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 429,496,729,600m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 107,374,182,400m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 858,993,459,200m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 214,748,364,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 1,717,986,918,400m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 429,496,729,600m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 3,435,973,836,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 858,993,459,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 6,871,947,673,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 1,717,986,918,400m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 13,743,895,347,200m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 3,435,973,836,800m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 27,487,790,694,400m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 6,871,947,673,600m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 54,975,581,388,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 13,743,895,347,200m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 109,951,162,777,600m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 27,487,790,694,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 219,902,325,555,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 54,975,581,388,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 439,804,651,110,400m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 109,951,162,777,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 879,609,302,220,800m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
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| 14,073,748,835,532,800m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 112,589,990,684,262,400m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 28,147,497,671,065,600m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 225,179,981,368,524,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 56,294,990,684,262,400m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 450,359,962,737,049,600m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 112,589,990,684,262,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 900,719,925,474,099,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 225,179,981,368,524,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 1,801,439,850,948,198,400m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 450,359,962,737,049,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 3,602,879,701,896,396,800m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 900,719,925,474,0 | | | |

Boxing

Eye injury casts shadow over Hope's career

his world wide fame. Gooding followers in the United States will be treated to a bumper State on December 13 following the death of the middleweight Willie Cossen, resumed there last night with referees intervening in three bouts.

ice skating

Miss Cottrill pens gates of opportunity

[illegible]

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[illegible]

100

A tiny Scots lass shows she is no 6st weakling

The target for the girl voted young athlete of the year, after setting up a string of British intermediate records last season, is a 400 metres place in Moscow.

Bryce said: "I don't see there is time for the European event. She has a hectic programme and

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| High jump | W. Mules | Christinaford | |
| 100m | J. D. 11.1 | 800m | C. R. 4.30 |
| 200m | Edinburgh SH | 1,600m | C. R. 5.50 |
| 400m | Edinburgh SH | 3,200m | C. R. 12.00 |
| 800m | L. Jones | 6,400m | M. W. 22.00 |
| 1,600m | C. R. 11.50 | 12,800m | C. R. 47.00 |
| 3,200m | J. Macdonald | 25,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 6,400m | C. R. 2.00.00 | 51,200m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 12,800m | C. R. 4.00.00 | 102,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 |
| 25,600m | C. R. 1.40.00 | 204,800m | C. R. 3.30.00 |
| 51,200m | C. R. 7.00.00 | 409,600m | C. R. 15.00.00 |
| 102,400m | C. R. 3.00.00 | 819,200m | C. R. 7.00.00 |
| 204,800m | C. R. 14.00.00 | 1,638,400m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 409,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 3,276,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 819,200m | C. R. 2.00.00 | 6,553,600m | C. R. 4.00.00 |
| 1,638,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 13,107,200m | C. R. 17.00.00 |
| 3,276,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 | 26,214,400m | C. R. 1.00.00 |
| 6,553,600m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 52,428,800m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 13,107,200m | C. R. 4.00.00 | 104,857,600m | C. R. 8.00.00 |
| 26,214,400m | C. R. 17.00.00 | 209,715,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 52,428,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 419,430,400m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 104,857,600m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 838,860,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 209,715,200m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 1,677,721,600m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 419,430,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 3,355,443,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 838,860,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 6,710,886,400m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 1,677,721,600m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 13,421,772,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 3,355,443,200m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 26,843,545,600m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 6,710,886,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 53,687,091,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 13,421,772,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 107,374,182,400m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 26,843,545,600m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 214,748,364,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 53,687,091,200m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 429,496,729,600m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 107,374,182,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 858,993,459,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 214,748,364,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 1,717,986,918,400m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 429,496,729,600m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 3,435,973,836,800m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 858,993,459,200m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 6,871,947,673,600m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 1,717,986,918,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 13,743,895,347,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 3,435,973,836,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 27,487,790,694,400m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
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| 56,294,990,684,262,400m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 450,359,962,737,049,600m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
| 112,589,990,684,262,400m | C. R. 8.00.00 | 900,719,925,474,099,200m | C. R. 35.00.00 |
| 225,179,981,368,524,800m | C. R. 1.00.00 | 1,801,439,850,948,198,400m | C. R. 2.00.00 |
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Jimmy Macdonald: young athlete of year and of weekend.

من الأحبار

مکرم

Eric Heffer

Why it is wrong to send our man to Chile

Last week, representatives of Labour's International Committee met the Soviet ambassador to protest on Labour's behalf at Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. We urged the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from that unfortunate country. Within 24 hours of our approach, Dr Andrei Sakharov, the world-renowned Soviet scientist and fighter for human rights, had been arrested and banished from Moscow.

The attitude of the Soviet Government is totally cynical and unforgeable. It is clear that the Soviet leaders have no regard for world public opinion and no real understanding of the meaning of democratic rights.

What is even more worrying is that they do not appear to understand that their actions are increasing tension between East and West and that the cold war now being created could accelerate into a hot war with the whole of mankind in the camp of the vanquished.

I refer to Labour's protest at Moscow's action because it is important to oppose repression from whatever source it comes. After all, oppression is oppression, and "left-wing" oppression is no better than "right-wing" oppression. That is why the British Government's decision to send an ambassador back to Chile is so deplorable.

The regime of General Pinochet. President of Chile, is anxious to become acceptable to the world community. They have spent a great deal of money trying to create a good image of themselves, to denigrate their opponents and to minimize by propaganda the true nature of their vicious regime. Their efforts to explain themselves over the torture of Dr Sheila Cassidy were pitiful and such whitewashing ought not to have been accepted by the Government.

In the case of Chile, once the ambassador had been withdrawn, he should not have been reinstated until democracy had been genuinely re-established in that country. It is all very well saying, as Mr Nicholas Ridley did at the Catholic Institute for International Relations last Tuesday, that sending the ambassador back in no way condones the Pinochet regime's record on human rights. That is not the way Pinochet will interpret it inside Chile or in Latin America and at the United Nations.

In November of last year, the Special Rapporteur on human rights, Mr Philip Alston, presented a report to the 34th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Rapporteur's terms of reference were to report on the situation of human rights in Chile.

rights in Chile. That report alone should have been sufficient for Britain to have maintained its position of no recognition to the Pinochet regime.

In paragraph 366 it says, "In its last report... the Ad Hoc Working Group reported... that the situation of human rights in Chile had improved from that existing in the years immediately following the seizure of power by the Military Junta in September 1973... it is not possible to confirm that improvement... in certain respects the situation... has deteriorated from that described in the above mentioned report. In the light of recent developments, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the General Assembly should continue to exercise vigilance with regard to the situation of human rights in Chile with a view to ensuring that the standards and guidelines adopted by the international community are respected in that country."

The report further says that a so-called "anti-terrorist" law attacks freedom of association and expression; that security forces have enhanced their powers and cases of torture and ill-treatment of people arrested has increased; that right-wing terrorist organizations operate freely; and that new decree laws on labour per-

manently restrict freedom of association, the right to strike and the right to collective bargaining. The state of "Emergency" continues.

The judiciary cannot freely exercise justice and in 1979 large-scale detention arising out of peaceful demonstrations has extended over many days, whereas in 1978, it lasted only a few hours. The junta allows only those who share its views to participate in constitutional talks.

There is no real freedom of expression for the media and the low-paid and the unemployed are finding it increasingly difficult, if not entirely impossible, to get education for their children. University research continues to be reduced. Unemployment is rising and wages are lower than ever. The largest price rises have been those of basic necessities and as a result the poor have suffered most. The health service, which had been built up under successive Chilean governments, is severely curtailed and last, but by no means least, the junta has still given no answer on the fate of prisoners who have disappeared.

After the report last December at the United Nations, 93 countries supported a resolution expressing indignation "at the continued violation of human rights" in Chile.



General Pinochet: a good image?

What is also worth noting is that the economic solutions of Professor Milton Friedman which have been tried in Chile have proved to be an unmitigated disaster. Unemployment is running at 15 per cent, with economic "freedom" existing alongside political repression.

The British Government's action is all the more deplorable in view of the United Nations' report and resolution. It is also disgraceful that the Government has made it more difficult for political refugees from the Latin American countries to seek refuge in Britain. For the past five years, Latin Americans fleeing persecution have been able to find safety here. Altogether, 3,000 of them have been saved from jail and torture. Yet in October last year, Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, announced that he was closing the visa programme.

This has meant that Britain has virtually slammed the door in the refugees' faces, and now stands alone among its EEC partners, the United States and Canada, in denying Latin Americans the chance of escape from repressive regimes.

I conclude with a plea to Mrs Thatcher and the Government. Stop having double standards on human rights. If it is correct to condemn Soviet repression, and it is, it is also important not to give responsibility to the repression in Chile because a democratically elected president and his government were overthrown by force. Change course now. Otherwise, serious opponents of repressive regimes will take your protestations of support for human rights with a pinch of salt.

The author is Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton.
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A damning indictment of Labour

R. H. Tawney observed in 1934 that "the degeneration of Socialist parties on assuming office is now an old story". His modern day disciples at the Fabian Society demonstrate today that a new chapter of that old story was written by the 1974-79 Labour Government. A new book, *Labour and Equality: A Fabian Study of Labour in Power, 1974-79*, edited by Nick Bosanquet and Peter Townsend, the Wilson and Callaghan Administrations are charged not merely with tearing apart the manifesto within months of taking office. Perhaps the most damning indictment to its performance is that the Labour Government abandoned its party's traditional concern with equality.

The authors of the 16 chapters differ in their analysis of what went wrong, notably in their reaction to the role of public spending in an era of cuts. But the collective view emerges that the last Labour government noted the political will to carry out its programme before the oil crisis began, and well before its capacity to carry out its programme through Parliament was effectively halted by the destruction of its majority.

It is a Labour Government committed to bringing about "a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people and their families" and to "eliminate poverty wherever it exists" within months of taking office had set in train economic policies which led to average cuts in the standard of living of 7 per cent between 1974 and 1977.

Cuts for families over that period were greater, with the disposable incomes of families with four children amounting to a chilling 20 per cent.

Even the introduction against the wishes of the Treasury and leading members of the Government—of the new child benefit system did no more than alleviate the effects of other government policies on the poor. By April 1979, the £4 child benefit was still worth less than the combined value of family support available 20 years before, except for one child family.

The roots of that failure grew from what Professor Peter Townsend describes as "a savage act of self-injury" when the Labour Government began to attack public expenditure well in advance of any pressure from the IMF in laying down its conditions for the 1976 loan. For that he blames the Treasury which became the single most influential source in shaping social policy.

Professor Townsend says the Treasury's influence was disastrous. It led to economic policies that increased unemployment more than was necessary, its "crablike" interventionism "tute" to public expenditure slashed services for the most vulnerable people, and by reducing real standards of living failed to confine cuts to those who could bear them more easily. The 1974-79 Labour governments substituted long term public expenditure cuts for socialist planning; poverty grew substantially, unemployment doubled and a wealth tax was deferred.

Nevertheless, the book, which follows *Labour and Inequality* published in 1972, which recorded equal disappointment with the previous

The Labour government set in train economic policies that led to average cuts of 7 per cent in the standard of living... cuts for families were greater.

Labour government, acknowledges that some of the measures taken were successful. In particular, existing pensioners were helped to ride the crisis; a dramatic increase in the real value of their pensions during the 1974-79 period, while the hope of better incomes for future pensioners was boosted by the fundamental reform of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975. And, while child benefits have not risen to the level where they would make a real improvement to family incomes, the structure was finally established to make that possible.

But the shadow lying over the achievements was the lack of clear direction or philosophy. Mr Nick Bosanquet accuses the Labour government of losing its belief in public spending and contributing to the crisis of public opinion over the value of health and social services, education and housing or social security.

He accepts that the government most probably had little choice but to show the growth in public spending in 1975-76, but argues that was no reason to turn what began as a short-term economic adjustment under duress into a longer term social philosophy. Indeed, he argues, there are compelling reasons to let some forms of public spending grow at least as fast as national output, while others should grow more quickly simply to maintain existing standards.

Indeed, the government went out of office committed to a growth rate for the health service below that for defence which in Labour terms seemed hardly feasible and certainly undesirable.

"The government seemed to lack any belief in the positive role of the core public sector," Mr Bosanquet says. "In this sense it has to be judged as being far too pessimistic and defeatist."

One of the lessons drawn by several of the authors is that there must be a greater integration of economic and social policies if the Labour aim of greater equality and social justice is ever to be achieved. But attempts during the life of the Labour government to achieve this failed dismally.

The joint approach to social policy, which was intended to allow ministers from different departments to consider together the impact of individual policies on other areas of government before deciding which should have priority, hardly developed and has now been formally abandoned. The social contract floundered and planning in public expenditure was sacrificed to the perceived needs of the balance of payments crisis.

Mr R. Sidelisky said of the 1925-31 Labour government: "It struggled to defend the working class as best as it knew how, and when it could defend them no longer it resigned." Far from resigning, the 1974-79 Labour government deliberately chose a strategy in which some groups were protected but most of its supporters suffered.

Reinmann Educational Books, £4.50.

Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Julian Critchley takes a nostalgic look at the Conservative survivors of the 'Supernac' era



Harold Macmillan and his "fifty-niners", Margaret Thatcher, James Prior, Neil Marten, and two who were lost—Humphry Berkeley and Christopher Chataway.

Today the 27 survivors of the October, 1959, intake of Conservative MPs, elected on Mr Harold Macmillan's coattails are giving a dinner for the Prime Minister, who was herself elected in that year. Greying men in middle-life will struggle into their dinner jackets and make for Dining Room B in the Commons in order to reminisce about the touts and rallies of political life and match their expanding witlins against their diminished hopes. Who were the "fifty-niners", and how has the party changed in the last 20 years?

Seventy-one Conservatives were first elected in October, 1959, the election which marked the high tide of the fortunes of the post-war Conservatives. They were once described somewhat characteristically by Mr R. A. Butler as "the poorest intake in my

Dining out with the Class of 59

experience", an opinion to which no one at the dinner is likely to be so tactless as to refer. Was it so bad? Out of the 70, we can claim a prime minister, a cabinet minister, Mr James Prior, and the Solicitor General. Messrs Nicholas Ridley and Neil Marten are ministers of state. Mr Desmond Smith, Sir Anthony Royle, Mr Emery and Mr Van Straubenzee have all tasted office, while Sir Timothy Kinson carried Mr Edward Heath's bags, a task undertaken for a time remarkable as that of a Conservative. There are also some knights, if not of the shires, then of the suburbs. Two of the 1959 intake's "stars" have been lost to politics: Mr Humphry Berkeley, who can lay claim to have

been the most influential Tory backbencher since the war, lost patience with the party and became a socialist; and Mr Christopher Chataway who, like Mrs Thatcher, was given junior office by Mr Harold Macmillan, quit politics for merchant banking in 1974. How comfortable he would be in today's Tory party is a matter of conjecture, but it is likely that he would have been in the Cabinet.

In 1959, Mr Harold Macmillan was at the apogee of his power. "Supernac" dominated politics, and his hold upon Conservatives was unchallenged. He led the party from the customary position of inside left. In 1980, Mrs Thatcher has yet to match performance with promise, and

knicks with her right foot. On the backbenches in the early sixties the moderates sought change, and the party's balance, continuity; in the eighties the balance seeks change and the moderates, continuity. In 1963 Mr Harold Macmillan resigned when ill, and was replaced by Lord Home, who was the typical backbencher of the day, writ large.

In 1975, Mrs Thatcher's victory over Mr Heath owed much to a similar activism. However much the party may change, loyalty has never been its secret weapon: it is a commodity which, like any other, remains in short supply. Will the party be any easier to lead from the right? In 1959, the Tory backbenches clearly preferred Burke's

Peerage to Burke's Reflections, and some at least of the newly-elected sat uncomfortably upon its benches. In 1980, the Tory Party has become politicized. It now consists of capitalists without capital, opinionated, vigorous and in no way deferential.

The 80 or so newly-elected MPs seem to work as a group in which the moderates surprisingly predominate and which has coalesced into two recognizable "camps", the Blue Chips and the Guy Fawkes dining clubs complement the One Nation, Nick's Dinner and the Lamp-lighters, formed recently to keep the light of moderation burning in the party.

No doubt the "seventy-niners" will be more distin-

guished than those of us who were washed ashore on the high tide of 1959. More distinguished and more comfortable, for the water is warmer for the less conventional and the party less stuffed. I doubt if they will be prepared to be as easily parodied and placated as we were in the past, and the Whips (the Sandbaggers) who once had only to murmur a rebuke, will, if they wish a hearing, have to raise their voices. What has the rump of the "fifty-niners" to look forward to? Membership of the Council of Europe, la politique gastronomique, service on the newly-formed select committees, and for some, a handle to their name. But for others there remains the "great game" which will be played for all it is worth.

The author is Conservative MP for Aldershot, and chairman of the party's media committee.

No question about it, it is a nuisance

The image of a fat banker slithering down the Cresta Run without a toboggan was unwittingly evoked in an avalanche of metaphor in *The Times* Business Section the other day: "The market was shaken by a sudden plunge in the pound's exchange rate, and as no flow was provided by the Bank, at least at first, there was a snow-balling effect." Like most jargons, the private language of the City slips easily into absurdity. Such technical terms as plunge, flow, and snowball are presumably dead metaphors for those who use them in their hermetic daily jargon. For us outsiders they are still very much alive, and are roused by chance collocations

to mental motion picture shows as ludicrous as the Keystone Kops.

There is no question that such sectional vocabularies are rich sources for resurrection of metaphors from the dead as remarkable as that of *Leviathan*. There is no question that the third and fourth words in this sentence constitute a fashionable phrase. The air is full of confident no questions being used to hustle dubious arguments past audiences too slow or too polite to object. There is no question of us being able to stop the nuisance, which will have to live out its busy but brief life as a vague expression, until all of us have grown tired of it. But no ques-

tion has the notable eccentricity of being fashionable with two opposing meanings simultaneously. At times it is used to mean the same as "no doubt". At other times it is used to mean almost the opposite.

In *The Times* the other day trumpet-tongued Bernard Levin was sounding off about there being no possible question that Michel Gouard had succeeded in his principal endeavour, which was to make non-fattening food not merely palatable but delicious. Meanwhile, on the Arts Page Alan Coren had a double-barrelled no question: there was no question that the makers of a television

programme wished to make our flesh creep; no question, either, that they did so. Where, as on yet another page, a spokesman for the West German Government was reported as having told a press conference that there was no question of any large scale publication of the official volume documenting the Schleyer kidnapping and Luftwaffe hijacking.

It is a rare Janus phrase that can manage to look in two such opposite directions without getting a stiff neck. The idiom is that no question that means no doubt that, and no question of means no possibility of. But the two distinct

meanings are sometimes confused, and often confusing.

At any rate, one old vexed question about question has been resolved. When *questionnaire* was imported from France earlier this century (two recent to be included in the original OED fascicle on "Q", published in 1904; in the 1933 Supplement the first example of its use is dated 1901), purists complained that it was an unnecessary Frenchified immigrant. The great word-fowler himself wrote that it was a pity that we could not be content with our native *questionnaire*, which is quoted by the OED from the sixteenth century. Comment-

ary, glossary, dictionary, and vocabulary with many less common words, would keep it well in company. Others said that if we did not adopt the perfectly good English word *questionnaire*, we should at least signify the French intruder by pronouncing it in a Frenchified way, as *questionnaire*. Usage has ignored the prescriptive purists, as it usually does. The influence of pollsters and government departments, which preferred *questionnaire*, has proved irresistible. *Questionnaire* pronounced in an Anglicized way, has established itself as a native and is quite at home. We do well to Anglicize our pronunciation of immigrant words. The English

are bad at foreign pronunciation. Sir James Murray once referred to the word "Renaissance" in a lecture. After touching on the facial acrobatics and sidereal and straggled noises that most people found necessary in attempts to deliver the word in French, he exclaimed: "Why don't they say *renaissans* and have done with it?" In *Grand Larousse* the first meaning of *questionnaire* is given as a torturer or clerk who sets down the replies of the person tortured: a vivid metaphor for those answerable and interminable question lists that civil servants torment us with.

Philip Howard

NEW YORK DIARY

There are few things a New Yorker loves more than to be playing the markets and winning. That is why, when the gold price was at its peak last week, spirits were high among the hundreds of people queuing in Manhattan's jewellery district to cash in on their heirlooms and trinkets.

That is also why by midweek, when the price had dipped, the queues had vanished. Nobody wants to live with the knowledge that he is selling below the top of the market, and there was a feeling that the slump was anyway only temporary.

I was out, queue-watching on the day the price was at its highest. In spite of having to wait two or three hours in temperatures which approached freezing, the citizens happily clutched their grips, cardboard boxes and suitcases warmed by camaraderie and the cosy glow provoked by the prospect of raising a little cash on the side.

The queues may have been no longer than those in London's Rotten Row or in capi-

als throughout the western world, I suspect, though, that people were having more fun. Outside Rodman and Yarus, one of the best-known gold merchants on West 47th Street, a plump man with a moustache, bundled in a blue overcoat and a woolly hat and blowing into his hands, was standing near the front of a queue of about a hundred people. The hand-drawn wagon at his feet held boxes covered with a tarpaulin.

"This," he declared, "is my idea of the last frontier. It's a challenge. The trick is to see how close to the edge you can get without falling over it."

The single block of West 47th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues is known as the diamond district, although business in other precious gems and metals is also underlashed. It has none of the understated decoration of Hutton Garden, but has instead acquired something akin to the character of the pornography district, whose border is only one block west.

There are the same gaudy, flashing neon signs, although here they read "Gold bought," rather than "Girls, girls, girls." As in the red light district, much of the business is transacted in the streets, although here by highly respectable Hasidic Jews, who wear black hats, coats and beards and stand on the pavement, doing deals and talking shop.

The diamond district has a reputation as a closed-in, secretive community on which light is cast only occasionally, when there is a spectacular theft or a dealer murdered for his jewels, and the police and press investigate. It also has the happier reputation of containing some of the best Jewish delicatessen restaurants in New York.

The secrecy had rubbed off on to the people in the queue. Few were willing to give their names or to reveal, except in general terms, what they had come to sell.

A man in a long, dark overcoat had a large suitcase with him and I asked him what was in it. "My lunch," he whispered



conspiratorially. "My lunch and a couple of coospoons." They were ready, though, as New Yorkers generally are, to share their philosophy on life and the state of the markets, as they sipped hot coffee and nibbled doughnuts provided by an ever-present tinsmith who bought them from a local cake and sold them on the street at a profit.

Rodman and Yarus organized separate queues for dealers and the general public. The man in the blue overcoat was an antique dealer who had bought gold and silver in the last few years and was here to take his profit.

Did he, then, have no inkling that the market had reached its peak? "That doesn't concern me," he replied. "I work on margin. I don't have much capital so I have to sell what I buy."

"With the money I'll go buy some more and hope it keeps going up. If it doesn't I'll have to sell anyway because I'm under-capitalized. I just hope I get paid before my cheque starts bouncing. It's a struggle."

I put to him the fear expressed by some that people were making down fine old works of art that could never be replaced, but he dismissed it. Most of what he had was of little intrinsic value except for the metal content.

"It's people's wedding rings, high school graduation rings, broken pieces and rings with

the stones missing," he said. "Sometimes it makes you want to laugh, or cry. You get wedding rings inscribed 'for ever, John, 1973', or 'Merry Christmas from your loving mother' and here are people selling them for the money."

"Of course if people do melt down antiques that's good for us in the trade. It means that the pieces that are left will go up in value."

In the queue I spoke to a film producer wearing a stylish tweed overcoat. "I'm going to divorce," he confessed, "so I have two wedding rings which don't have sentimental value any more."

"I've also got a couple of the clips and a school ring and a silver identity bracelet I had in the services in the early Fifties. I'll sell it all for a few hundred so I'll be able to give my wife a little more money in the settlement."

But it does make you frightened to wonder what's going to happen to the value of the paper money. I've got in exchange. It may not be worth

much more than the paper it's printed on."

Next to him was a man in a blue overcoat. I knew his name because it was embroidered on his front pocket, alongside the name of the laundry company for which he worked. He had some rings which belonged to his family and some gold fillings about whose origins he was reluctant to commit himself.

"Let's just say I used to work for a house-cleaning firm and we used to clear the effects of people who died."

And the wisdom of exchanging all this for money which may not have any lasting value? "I don't plan on keeping it that long," he answered, smiling.

A clothing manufacturer pulled a tarnished silver salt shaker from the pocket of his fawn raincoat. "I've got one of these," he said, "and a few pieces of gold and jewelry. I've no use for any more. I've just sold some gold coins around the corner for \$200 (about £90). I bought them several years ago for much less. I guess I'll clear

about a thousand altogether." Some had less ambitious ideas. A college student taking the morning off from classes, immaculately turned out in a deep wine overcoat, did not expect more than \$200 if she was lucky. She was going to sell some out-of-fashion gold jewelry and buy something newer to replace it.

Three middle-aged women with rings to sell were swapping rumours about the latest gold price. "I hear it opened at \$850 in London," said one, knowledgeable. "I have a friend on Wall Street who says it will go up to \$1,500."

"I heard two thousand," one of her companions chimed in, determined not to be outdone. Despite the erratic performance of the price since, it would be a wild prophet who would now rule that out of the question. The queues on West 47th Street could well become a recurring feature of New York's outdoor social life.

Michael Leapman

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

The Republic of Ireland has started 1980 with an over-heated economy, continuing discontent about taxes, and a new Prime Minister pledged to public expenditure cuts. Denis Taylor discusses the implications of the change at the top

When Mr Charles Haughey replaced Mr Jack Lynch as Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland last month, some outsiders, including Ulster Protestants, saw the event as evidence of deep divisions in the Irish nationalist soul. The moderate Mr Lynch, whose attitudes towards Britain and Northern Ireland had earned him the name "Union Jack Lynch" from the Provisional IRA and their sympathizers, had bowed off the stage. He was succeeded by the politician who in 1970 had been charged with illegally importing arms into the republic, tried and acquitted.

Nationalist sentiments played a part in the crisis which led to Mr Lynch's withdrawal and Mr Haughey's accession. But had the Fianna Fail Government been seen to be governing effectively and had the economy not deteriorated after two prosperous years, there would have been insufficient pressure on Mr Lynch to withdraw from the premiership. The anti-partitionist public statements of Miss Siela Valera, granddaughter of the party's founder and Fianna Fail deputy, embarrassed Mr Lynch and led to a basis on the expression of her republican views. Then there was the controversy surrounding the agreement on the British military flights beyond the border. But both issues should be seen in a much wider context.

Fianna Fail defeats in European and local elec-

tions, and finally in two by-elections in Mr Lynch's native Cork, showed a tide of disapproval running against his administration. His taxation policies had managed to offend both farmers and urban workers, and it had presided over rapidly rising inflation and a five months' postal strike. The main beneficiary of this disenchantment was the most overtly anti-IRA party, Fine Gael.

The record told against Mr George Colley, the Finance Minister, but it did not tell sufficiently to rout him when it came to a party vote for the new leader. While the voting showed a split between Cabinet and backbenchers, the latter strongly favouring Mr Haughey, the Fianna Fail decision was close and went to the victor 44 votes to 38.

That those backbenchers who had harboured strong republican sentiments while obediently following the Lynch line on Northern Ireland should give their allegiance to Mr Haughey was not surprising. But there were other considerations. Mr Haughey, a good speaker with a reputation for efficient administration in the mould of his late father-in-law and Prime Minister, Mr Sean Lemass, looked the more credible candidate to lead in the next election due at the latest in 1982.

It is the approach of this new election and the fact that the Fine Gael will be led for the first time by Dr Garret FitzGerald, an econo-



mist and skilled television debater, that encourages Mr Haughey to concentrate on the economy. The new Prime Minister's televised address earlier this month was exclusively on economic issues. He spelt

out a message familiar to Mrs Margaret Thatcher. He said the country had been living beyond its means and that government spending would have to be cut.

When discussing the economy, there is room for long-term optimism. The immediate economic outlook is discouraging. But while the bottom of the European Community league table for per capita GDP, the level of affluence now found not only in the more traditionally prosperous east but also across the country would have been inconceivable a generation ago.

Unemployment remains high, but the tide of emigration to seek work has been stemmed and the population is rising, reversing a historical trend. Lifestyles increasingly resemble those found in Britain or on the Continent. The car, the colour television set and the foreign holiday have made the late President Eamon de Valera's early dream of a self-sufficient, Irish-speaking nation look incredibly remote.

There is another side to progress. The desecration of Georgian Dublin continues as the developers move in and banks and insurance companies sprout. The new architecture ranges from the attractive to the brutalist, but it could be found anywhere in Europe instead of in a unique and elegant, if sometimes dirty and shabby, capital city.

Another trend is a perceptible erosion in the traditional authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Ninety-six per cent of the population of the Irish Republic are Catholics, and it looks from the outside as if the hold of the church is rock solid. Television pictures of the reception given to the Pope certainly reinforced this impression. The first visit by a Pope to a country where the Catholic faith has endured for 1,500 years was a tremendous historical and emotional experience for the Irish.

But while attention in Britain and Northern Ireland was focused on the Drogheda appeal for an end to violence, perceptive Catholics also noted the condemnation of divorce by the Pope in Limerick, and his Galway address to youth on the evils of the permissive society, and saw in them a reflection of some Irish bishops' desire to hold the line against lay influences.

The republic has a young population and more of the young are questioning traditional church teaching. There has been a decline in regular attendance at Mass among young people in Dublin and to a lesser extent in country areas. But questioning, not rejection, is the key word. Some have given up going to confession but still go to Mass and are searching for a more personal faith.

Surveys among school-leavers have shown a decline in the number considering the priesthood or a religious order, with doubts expressed about the finality of the commitment required and about the vow of celibacy.

But against this it must be said that adherence to Catholicism remains exceptionally high by the standards of the rest of Western Europe. Divorce is forbidden by the Irish Constitution of 1937, and it would require a referendum to change this. Such a plebiscite is not expected in the foreseeable future.

But it would be misleading to see the church as a monolith directing political behaviour. While changes in the law on contraception have proved contentious during the 1970s, some priests, by treating artificial birth control as a matter of conscience, have shown less preoccupation with doctrine than many politicians.

While the Irish Church has traditionally exercised immense authority in matters of sexual authority, its appeals against violence have usually made little impact. The lack of a response by the Provisional IRA to the Pope's appeal for peace should not have come as a surprise when for more than a hundred years supporters of physical force for political ends have ignored the condemnations of the hierarchy. Even the withdrawal of the sacraments has failed to deter.

Membership of the European Community arguably has made the Southern Irish more European than their British neighbours. The European role has given a great boost to Irish self-confidence and reduced the twin temptations to ape Britain and blame the British for domestic ills.

But Northern Ireland remains an area where there is still room for improving the education of southerners.

In retrospect Mr Lynch may be seen as an important pioneer in this. He spent much of the past decade arguing that the first priority was to devise a form of administration acceptable to both communities in Northern Ireland. The reunification by consent of the entire island, one of the key aims of the Fianna Fail Party, appeared to have been relegated to a distant future. The other chief goal, the restoration of the Irish language, was already a lost cause.

A more openly republican note was sounded with a Fianna Fail call for British withdrawal made in 1975 when the party was in an unaccustomed period of opposition. Mr Lynch, however, did not allow this to hamstring him after his return to office two years later with the biggest majority of any government in the history of the state.

But while there is the view that reconciliation between northern Protestant and Catholic must come before any form of Irish unity, there is still little apparent comprehension of the degree of northern Protestant antipathy to close links with the republic. Reunification remains a dream for Southern Irishmen, irrespective of whether they belong to that minority with any sympathies for the IRA, and even if they hope that the longed-for British withdrawal from Ulster does not come too soon for comfort.

Enigmatic leader veiled in green



The new Prime Minister's ascent to power is a remarkable story of determination and guts. The establishment within Fianna Fail, which favoured the much less personable George Colley for Taoiseach, was routed by the party's field workers in favour of the rumbustious and colourful Mr Haughey.

His appointment as Prime Minister surprised the Irish, he seemed to be a name from the past, somebody who had missed his chance and would achieve nothing greater than Minister of Health.

But Mr Haughey, the tough guy of Irish politics, had planned his strategy well. He appealed to nationalist sympathizers because of the feeling that he had dabbled on the fringes of Republicanism, although there was nothing really to substantiate that.

He is nowhere on record as expressing republican views; he relied on the newspapers to attribute those views to him. So without saying anything, his image as a hard line "deep green" Republican grew; his silence on the matter, however, ensured that he did not alienate all the moderate elements within Fianna Fail. Mr Haughey appealed to those most dominant of Irish emotions, romance and passion.

His brief tenure of office since early December has not been marked, as had been feared, by an upheaval in Anglo-Irish relations. Although the British are obsessed by those relations, Irish politicians are bored by the subject and it has remained somewhere near the bottom of the Irish Government's priority list.

Nor is there any evidence that the Irish police and Army are any less active in their efforts against the IRA. Indeed, some spectacular bomb finds just south of the border seem to demonstrate that the security forces are enjoying much success. Cooperation with the British security forces is also better than it has been for many years.

Mr Haughey's political guile is conducted with considerable flair: as Minister for Health he ingratiated himself by issuing free toothbrushes to all school children.

Since the arms trial of 1970 he has been at work polishing his image and it

has paid off with the greatest prize of all.

But degrees of personal criticism by the Fianna Fail MPs, which is unprecedented even in the turbulent world of Irish politics. Dr Garret FitzGerald, leader of the main opposition party Fine Gael, was merciless in his attack, which strayed far beyond the normal bounds of political cockfighting. But Mr Haughey, whose patience and stoicism is well proved, sat impassively in the Dail chamber throughout it all, and when it came time to defend himself.

He is passionately concerned about the Ulster problem, and with understandable reason. His family were Ulstermen, and he still has scores of relatives in the province. His father was forced out by the extremist Protestants in the campaigns of hatred in the early 1920s.

A few years after his father's death, Charles Haughey was born to the Irish Free State and later was educated in Dublin. He was at school with George Colley, now his deputy, who was his only opponent in the leadership contest. They had been lifelong rivals and now work together — or perhaps one should say side by side — uncomfortably.

What of his performance as Prime Minister so far? Everybody suspected his first action might be to advance the cause of nationalism; that was because Mr Haughey had allowed them to think so, without actually saying anything of the sort.

So, to the surprise of many people in Northern Ireland and Westminster, the economy has been his priority. On present showing he has a good understanding of the mechanics of the problem.

On the Ulster front he has heartily condemned the Provisional IRA in terms that, fairly, belie any impression he might have given of tacit sympathy for their barbaric methods. The British have had no cause for complaint, but it is early days and a real test has not yet presented itself.

When it does the new Taoiseach might again prove that whatever anybody thinks he might do, they are probably wrong.

Christopher Thomas

Black and white supplement.



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REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Anglo-Irish relations

Double-barrelled pot-shots at the IRA

To talk of Anglo-Irish relations is to talk, to a large extent, about cross-border cooperation in trying to frustrate the Provisional IRA's attempts to bring Northern Ireland into unity with the Republic.

Under the leadership of Mr Jack Lynch the ruling Fianna Fail party co-operated extensively with the authorities of the North. Given that Fianna Fail also shares a deep and emotional commitment to Irish unity, it sometimes embarrassed the party to be assisting in the maintenance of the border, but the abhorrence of violence outweighed all other considerations.

After the cold-blooded murder of Lord Mountbatten Mr Lynch agreed, though aware of the political dangers, to allow British helicopters to cross the border in pursuit of suspect vehicles without obtaining prior permission.

The secret arrangement caused an immediate furore when it was confirmed by Mr Lynch during a press conference in the Washington Press Club during his tour of the United States. Despite his denials, he gave more information to the American newspapermen than he gave to his own backbenchers in Dublin. It was a delicate time for the Prime Minister, and only he knows how much the clash contributed towards his decision to quit the leadership.

Mr Lynch's departure was a great disappointment to the British, because he was a man they could talk to. It

remains to be seen whether the new Prime Minister, Mr Charles Haughey, turns out to be as uncompromising as he is reputed to be. But so far he has done nothing to undermine the security efforts on both sides of the border—indeed, the Irish security forces appear to be enjoying a tremendous success rate in discovering bomb factories and bomb stocks.

Under Mr Haughey's rule, however, it does seem unlikely that the Irish Government will go any further. The British Government would clearly like the Republic to extradite wanted men for trial in the North, but such a move is impossible without either a change in the Act, which would require international law, for extradition for political offences, or a change in the usual definition of terrorist crimes so they are no longer deemed to be political.

The Irish Government, which presses over the extradition issue, points out that if the British gave evidence to the Irish police against the person suspected of crime in the North, he could be prosecuted in the Republic.

This is possible under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act, which was passed unanimously by both the Westminster and Dublin parliaments. It means that terrorists can be tried on whichever side of the border they are captured, regardless of where the offence was committed. The difficulty, however, is that it is almost impossible

to persuade prosecution witnesses to come forward, usually because they fear for their safety.

In one important respect the IRA has cleverly managed to neutralize the Offences against the State Act, Ireland's main legal weapon against terrorists. One of its provisions is to allow the Special Criminal Court to try a terrorist on the evidence of a single, senior police officer.

That was all very well until the court started imposing increasingly severe sentences, until then the defendants almost always refused to enter a plea because they did not recognize the court, and such a plea gave the court no difficulty in concluding that the person was guilty.

Increasingly, however, the IRA now encourages defendants to enter an automatic plea of not guilty. Because the evidence of the police is so often based on hearsay, innuendo and assumption, and the court is frequently dissatisfied and dismisses the case. Consequently, the number of convictions of people for being members of the IRA is well down. Relations between Dublin and Westminster stand on all on the attitude of each to the situation in the North, and their respective handling of the situation. Mrs Margaret Thatcher is deeply concerned by the IRA's activities in America of the Government's policy on Ulster, which is why she took such a deep personal interest in the launching of

the latest political initiative. According to one story, she summoned Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, one day in September and said to him to have a political initiative ready by October 25. That was the day she had dinner with Mr Kingman Brewster, United States Ambassador to the Court of St James's.

Mr Haughey began his term as Prime Minister with the most cautious of comments about the North, which brought a sigh of relief from Whitehall, which had convinced itself that the carefully built bridges would be brought tumbling down.

Mr Haughey told the Dail in a policy statement that the Government would concern itself with full civil rights and equality in the North, and with the impartial enforcement of the law. All people constructive in their approach in relation to Northern Ireland would find his door always open, he said, and added that there might be a change of emphasis in the Government's approach.

In the early days of Mr Haughey's reign, however, there have been no signs of what the change of emphasis has been. But he has been forthright in his condemnation of IRA atrocities and at his press conference on the day of his election as Taoiseach he said unequivocally: "I condemn the IRA and all its activities."

Christopher Thomas

Economy

Public spending must be cut

The short-term outlook for the Irish economy is soiling. After two years of 1977 and 1978, when the Republic had the fastest growth rate in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the past few months have seen a worrying deterioration. The budget scheduled for next month is expected to be heavily deflationary.

As Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, told the nation on television earlier this month: "The figures which are just now becoming available to us show one thing very clearly. As a community we are living way beyond our means... we have been living at a rate which is simply not justified by the amount of goods and services we are producing."

The figures he quoted may seem insignificant to British readers, but it should be borne in mind that the Southern Irish economy is approximately one-third the size of that of the United Kingdom. Mr Haughey said that to meet the running costs of the state and its capital programme, more than £1,000m had to be borrowed last year.

"That amount is equal to one-seventh of our entire national output for the year. This is just far too high a rate and cannot possibly continue," he said. Trade had also deteriorated, with a deficit of £760m.

The lesson he drew was one well rehearsed in Britain. "We will have to cut down on government spending. The Government are making far too much by way of taxes from individual members of the community. But even this amount is not enough to meet our commitments. We will just have to reorganise government spending so that we only undertake the things which we can afford."

This stringent tone was continued the next day when the Government published a White Paper on Investment and national development to 1983 with a preface coldly stating: "Since the White Paper was finalized the international outlook and the domestic situation have worsened, particularly in relation to the price and availability of energy."

The pessimism has not developed overnight. The Central Bank of Ireland's autumn quarterly bulletin

forecast a serious deterioration in the balance of payments deficit this year and this was without allowing for any sharp winter increases in oil prices. The bank also predicted inflation continuing to rise into the second half of the year, and a 21 per cent growth rate in 1980. From 1981 the system is extremely low by recent Irish standards.

The inflation rate in the 12 months to November was 16 per cent, compared with 6 per cent for May 1977 to May 1978.

But the bank's prognosis was not entirely gloomy. It argued that a reduction in the balance of payments deficit "need not, over time, greatly reduce output in employment, if at the same time the economy improves its international competitiveness."

Part of the present despondency is because the dash for growth under the Fianna Fail Government, elected in 1977, seemed to be working so well, and jobs were being created at an unprecedented rate.

Even today, the prospects for Irish industry do not look too discouraging. This sector grew by between 7 per cent and 8 per cent last year in spite of the five months' postal strike and the long winter, which had adverse effects on food processing. This accounts for a quarter of Irish industry.

Industry tends to look at its prospects in much longer than the short-term. The picture here is of an annual growth rate of about 6 per cent from the middle of the 1960s until 1973 when the figure was 10 per cent. Over the next five years the rate held at about 9 per cent.

In 1975 the Industrial Development Authority had approved 15,000 new jobs. The increase last year was 35,000 approvals. About half the new employment is coming from overseas companies and half of this is in electronics.

Continental and Japanese firms are moving into the Republic, but the strongest interest is coming from the United States. The factor which has altered the industrial outlook is Ireland's membership of the EEC. While the elimination of tariff barriers means that Irish industry must be more competitive, goods produced

there now enjoy direct access to the whole of the Community.

A significant inducement to set up operations has been the tax holiday of up to 20 years granted to foreign companies producing for export. Firms making export commitments this year will still be eligible for tax relief until 1980. From 1981 the system will change to a 10 per cent corporation tax on profits from all manufacturing in the Republic, but this is not seen as a disincentive.

Membership of the Community has seen a shift in the distribution of Irish exports. In 1971, two thirds were sent to the United Kingdom and only 10 per cent to the Six. Seven years later, 47 per cent were destined for the British market and 30 per cent for the rest of the EEC. The Confederation of Irish Industry estimates that by 1982 two-fifths of sales will be to the continental members of the EEC and 35 per cent to the United Kingdom.

In this context, the Irish decision to break the historical link with sterling and join the European Monetary System (EMS) makes sense, even though the punt has depreciated against the strong pound. The Irish Government showed initial nervousness about joining the EMS, for which it is getting £275m in help spread over five years from EEC sources. But on balance, industrialists think the right decision was taken.

The private sector points out that most strikes have recently been in the public sector, but Mr Haughey has expressed particular concern about the whole area of industrial relations and said that any further serious interruption in production or the provision of essential services this year would be a major disaster.

In his television speech, however, he said that industrial relations were not a one-sided affair, and that managements who allow a drift to confrontation can be just as much to blame as unofficial strikers. But what he really wanted was a universal commitment to industrial peace in 1980. Few Irishmen will be tempted to bet on the prospects.

Denis Taylor



European leaders during the recent EEC summit meeting in Dublin.

Agriculture

Banks now defer to the farmer

Ireland's farmers bless the day that the Republic joined the European Community. Their prosperity has risen dramatically, although half the farms are still one-man affairs of no more than 50 acres—not enough to warrant any employee outside the family.

The food processing industry in particular has taken off under EEC membership, and now employs about 40,000 people, compared with a mere 2,000 people employed on the land by 150,000 farmers.

The family farm is still prevalent in Ireland, in spite of a drift from the land to industry in the early 1970s. But with unemployment in the big towns, the drift has slowed down, and the small farm retains its dominant position in Irish society.

The family farm obviously has no industrial relations problem. The food processing industry, which is expanding rapidly, has seen a number of perhaps inevitable clashes over wages and conditions, but in general labour relations are good.

The processing industry is almost 100 per cent union organized, and the biggest single union is the Irish Transport and General Workers. A spokesman there was in no doubt: "In a young growth industry like food processing, employees are offered many opportunities. We have no serious problems."

The latest pay deal, which was achieved without a single lost working day, gave a package of increases amounting to about 20 per cent, taking the average basic wage for a male worker to £65 a week.

"The same has a big hand in the processing industry and has shown a firm willingness to involve the workforce at the highest level in decision-making. In the state-run Irish Sugar Company, a third of the board's members are workers' representatives, under a new worker participation legislation."

The first elections of the new scheme were to be held last year and the scheme appears to be working successfully, despite some early teething troubles. In areas associated with agriculture, such as the veterinary services, the price has encountered some difficulties. For more than a year the veterinary surgeons' imposed limitations on the service's work for the state because of disagreements on fees.

In a dispute over a variety of issues—which again boils down principally to payments—the Agricultural advisers entered into a long and acrimonious dispute with the Government. In both cases, the atmosphere has improved.

The increased prosperity of the agricultural community has had its expected effect on wages, and has also saved some remote villages from a slow death as the poor farmers moved out. However, the drift has not been entirely halted and job planners in the Manpower Consultative Committee say

that many young rural school leavers are entering the rapidly-growing industries such as electronics, mechanical engineering, consumer goods, chemicals, food processing and selected textiles.

But what sort of future is there for the small Irish farmer? It is instructive to take a single example of how membership of the EEC has changed the lifestyle of the farming community. Dennis Keary is the fourth generation to farm 65 acres between Loughrea and Athlone, Co. Galway. There were times when the bank refused to cash a cheque, but now it offers him all the money he can afford to borrow.

Irish farm prices have quadrupled in five years, and Dennis Keary's annual income has risen from £3,000 to £12,000 in that time. He took advantage of the EEC Farm Modernization Scheme, which provides capital to invest in more efficient methods. That helps to buy a £2,200 milking machine.

Similar stories can be repeated countless times. The farmers are a powerful political force and ministers for agriculture are cautious not to upset them. The farming vote swings from party to party and can influence the fate of governments not to mention the fate of individual agricultural ministers.

The Irish Farmers Association (IFA) meets ministers of government at least two or three times a month. The IFA complains that there is need for greater dialogue between what it calls the four social partners—farmers, employers, government and unions—to determine an agreed place for agriculture in the economy.

Since a change of leadership in 1976, the IFA has become more aggressive. There is considerable ill-feeling among many ordinary wage earners to the farmers and their alleged privileged position: as the man in the street sees it, the farmers maintained a churlish prosperity despite their past seven years, compared with wage earners who have suffered, not prospered, because of inflation.

But the period of agreement with the EEC may be over: farm prices are not rising as quickly because of a combination of the EEC Commission's difficulty in financing the present structure of agricultural prices and consumer-trade union lobbying in Brussels over farm prices.

The farmers' organizations are working hard to convince workers about the value of the Common Agricultural Policy, but the tide of opinion appears to be running against them.

Nevertheless, the farmers are powerful enough to ensure that their new prosperity is not lightly taken from them; it would be a foolhardy government that tried to do it.

C.T.

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Joining EEC brings new self-confidence

The Irish are relieved that their presidency of the EEC ended four weeks ago. This does not mean that things went badly wrong from their point of view during their six months in the chair, but rather that they do not envy the Italians in having to cope with the first half of this year.

Dublin sees Rome having to face up to an aggravated energy crisis and a worsening international recession, quite apart from the difficulties posed by Britain's demands for financial redress. This issue hung like a cloud over the Dublin summit in November. But while the Irish, like other net beneficiaries from the EEC were unhappy about British intransigence, at least the crisis was postponed during their time as hosts to Europe.

Although the EEC has opened a market of more than 260 million people to Irish industrial products, the less like a crock of gold for the farmers. The Irish Republic has a larger proportion of the labour force employed in agriculture than any other EEC country, and the Common Agricultural Policy has benefited them and made Ireland a tactical ally of the French. The present rebuilding of food surpluses could help to temper Irish farmers' enthusiasm for Europe. But whatever the future economic implications of membership, the political significance of entry to the EEC seven years ago is unquestionable.

This step has helped to give the Republic of Ireland a new self-confidence. The late President Eamon de Valera had the stature, while Prime Minister, to assert an Irish identity through the League of Nations. In the post-war era, the country played a modest but increasing role in United Nations activities, notably the peace-keeping operations in the Congo, Cyprus and the Middle East.

But joining the EEC brought two important changes. First, Dublin was free to make economic and financial choices without continual reference to decisions already taken in Br-

tain. Second, to function properly in the Community, Ireland needed direct diplomatic links with communist, Muslim and other Third World countries. The traditional policy of relying on its missions at the United Nations had become too limited.

Ten years ago, Dublin had 41 embassies and missions abroad, concentrated in Western Europe and North America. Not surprisingly, given the close emigrant links with the United States, there were consulates-general established in New York, Boston, Chicago and San Francisco as well as the Washington Embassy and the United Nations delegation. But the Republic maintained only three posts in the whole of Africa, Asia and Latin America, in Lagos, New Delhi and Buenos Aires.

In 1973 embassies were opened first in Athens and Luxembourg, thus rounding off representation in all EEC states and candidates for entry, and later in Tokyo. The following year, the Irish opened their embassy in Moscow, the first in any communist country, and in Vienna and Beirut, their first diplomatic base in the Arab world. Cairo came next in April, 1975, followed by Jiddah 12 months later and Tehran in September, 1976. Nairobi and Peking were added last year, and development aid offices have begun work in Lesotho, Tanzania and Zambia.

The Department of Foreign Affairs budget has risen from £15.7m in 1970 to £17.36m in the present financial year. Just over half the budget is for general running costs and half for contributions to the United Nations and development aid. There has not been such a sharp increase in staff. Headquarters staff in Dublin have gone up from 40 to 100 since 1970 and those posted abroad from 73 to 135.

This underlines how much Irish missions tend to be run on a shoestring. A couple of diplomats may have to run a post, and an ambassador, in the Middle East for example, may be accredited to more than one capital. There is not yet any organized training in difficult languages before officials are posted abroad. Mr Edward Brennan already spoke Rus-

sian before he was sent as Ambassador to Moscow, but he had studied the language at his own initiative while serving in another post.

The need to learn by experience and the fact that new posts are often in areas of tension, or at least topical interest, mean that an Irish diplomat should not suffer from boredom. It has also meant early promotions, with ambassadors aged about 40 being appointed. At the same time, promised cuts in public expenditure could mean that some hopeful high-fliers will be left minding desks in Dublin.

Irish foreign policy is acquiring a more commercial edge. Trade and energy are seen as increasingly important, hence developments like the government-to-government contract for oil supplies from Iraq and the visit of a trade mission to China. The Irish are thinking of what just a fraction of the Chinese market could do for their exports.

The Northern Ireland problem can always sour relations between Dublin and London. But Anglo-Irish relations do not look quite as obnoxious as a part of Irish foreign policy as they did at the start of the 1970s. There are now a few other items on the agenda as well.

D.T.



Mr Haughey on the right track

The traditional Irishman's love of racing is one that transcends class and political boundaries and two especially keen racegoers were the Fianna Fáil Taoiseach, Mr Sean Lemass and his Fine Gael opposite number, Mr Liam Cosgrave. No politician to his knowledge, however, has got himself quite so deeply embroiled in the sport as Mr Charles Haughey, the recently-elected successor to Mr Jack Lynch.

The successes on the track of a sprinter, Miss Cosie, originally fired his enthusiasm and she became the foundation of a small study which he set up at his home in north Co. Dublin. Today Mr Haughey has 10 brood mares and he has become a regular vendor of yearlings each autumn. Through hunting he also acquired a taste for National Hunt racing and to visitors to his home he displays with pride the trophy he received when Volforo won the Power Gold Cup at Fairyhouse.

Through this first-hand knowledge he has acquired a particular appreciation not only of the reward but also of the hazards involved in the breeding of bloodstock and he can therefore be relied upon to continue the bipartisan policy whereby thoroughbred breeders enjoy a special tax-free situation which has made them the envy of their European counterparts.

Indeed Ireland is the only major bloodstock breeding country in the European Community where horses are zero rated for the purposes of value added tax. Just before Christmas Mr Richard Burke, the Irish EEC Commissioner, reported that the British Government had lodged a formal complaint to the European Commission about the allegedly

biased VAT treatment of bloodstock sales in Ireland and France and the unfair competition that this presented to breeders in Britain. He hinted that this charge could eventually bring Ireland and France before the European Court of Justice but if that happens, Mr Haughey will sigh bitterly for the status quo.

In the early volumes of the general stud book the Irish-based brood mares were published in a separate section but early in the nineteenth century the breeders' inferiority complex demanded that Wetherby do away with the division and publish all the mares in a single alphabetical index. Their request was acceded to but times have changed and since the end of the Second World War there has been much agitation by Irish breeders if not for a return to the old style of stud book entry at least for the recognition that there is such a thing as a distinctive Irish thoroughbred.

The battle for world markets as an outlet for surplus bloodstock has fuelled this complaint and for a considerable number of years Coras Tractaile, the Irish Export Board, and the Racing Board joined forces to publish and distribute a monthly magazine publicising the exploits both at home and abroad of Irish breeds.

It was a former secretary of the Racing Board, Mr Leo Kelly, who produced the most realistic definition to settle the controversial issue as to which country could claim the credit for major winners. He said that the horse should be the nationality of the country in which its dam was permanently based. In an age of increased international breeding it so happens that

many foals are born in foreign lands where their dam has gone to be covered.

During the past 20 years there has been a dramatic growth in the size of the Irish bloodstock industry and I calculate that in this period alone the number of mares has doubled from fewer than 4,000 to almost 8,000. It is often a relevant criticism that more means worse but this has not proved the case and whereas before the war most successes accruing to Ireland came in jumping, today Ireland is one of the principal sources for top quality flat racing stock.

This was borne out in last year's Pattern Races in Britain and France. Of these 202 events, France won 57, Ireland 55, Britain 45 and the United States 43.

If one was to isolate a single factor to explain the improvement in quality, it would be the exemption of stallion fees from any form of income tax. When the former American ambassador, Mr Raymond Guest, derided his Derby winner Sir Ivor to stud in Co. Kildare, the horse had a potential earning capacity of 320,000 guineas a year. At the time that was a post-tax profit achieved by relatively few Irish commercial enterprises.

While many of the best bred Irish yearlings find their way abroad, some trainers of the calibre of Vincent O'Brien and Paddy Prendergast, because of their skill, have acquired international patronage.

Both O'Brien and Prendergast have headed a list of leading trainers in Britain on more than one occasion, and with five victories in the Derby already to his credit O'Brien is within reach of the seven-Derby training record held jointly by Robert Robson, John Porter and Fred Darling.

If tax concessions have helped breeding, the one innovation which, more than any other, transformed the face of Irish racing was the establishment in 1945 of the establishment in 1945 of the Racing Board. Long before British racing had a levy board, Ireland had a state-sponsored body with the legal right to operate the Totalisator and to collect a levy on all course bets with bookmakers.

Millions of pounds comes from these two sources each year, and they have provided the money both to improve racetracks for the public and to offer worthwhile prizes for owners.

Figures issued earlier this month by the Racing Board compared 1970 with 1979. The minimum prize rose from £300 to £1,200 in 1979, while the total prize money increased from £955,861 to £3,529,317. More money has inevitably led to

more horses being put into training.

Betting is big business in the Republic, and the 1,100,000 racegoers last year wagered almost £12m with the Tote and more than £52m with the bookmakers. English visitors often express astonishment at the size of the betting at even the smallest meetings, when £10,000 bets are commonplace while course bookmakers such as Sean Graham and David Power have annual turnovers of several million pounds.

With this background of a healthy breeding industry and a flourishing racecourse service, Irish racing enters the 1980s with confidence that it will hold its own with the best in the world.

Tony Sweeney

Peat softens the blow of energy prices

As the frantic search for oil continues around its coast, the Irish Republic, like most countries, is anxiously reappraising its energy requirements. Britain may be an island of coal in a sea of oil, but Ireland is not so blessed. It does, however, have something unique: peat. Dubliners can still soften the blow of electricity and gas prices by buying the right to a small piece of bog in the countryside for a small sum.

Peat excavation is a big exercise in the republic, and many people are concerned that deposits may be quickly exhausted. The national peat board, Bord na Móna, has the responsibility of developing the removal of turf.

But turf is not the main preoccupation. Old is the prize the Government wants to win, and from time to time the republic goes into a state of excitement as rumours spread of big finds. The worst fear is that big oil companies will not find anything worth while, will become dispirited and will give up the search.

The drilling commitments which were made under the licences granted in 1975 are expected to be almost completed later this year and after that the oil companies can make up their minds whether to continue.

As in other countries, the attempt to reduce oil consumption (Ireland depends on oil for 75 per cent of its energy) has not had concerted government attention in Ireland until recent years. But the oil crisis has focused the republic's mind quickly and sharply.

With the move away from expensive oil-fired central heating to electricity, the Electricity Supply Board is in danger of not being able to meet demand in severely cold weather. Power cuts are an ever-present danger.

The national peat board has on average excavated about four million tons of peat a year, 75 per cent of which was used to generate electricity. Two years ago more than 15 per cent of Ireland's primary energy came from peat excavated from the ancient bogs.

It was not, before the oil price rises, particularly cheaper than other energy sources. Impure oil and coal were highly competitive, but peat excavation had the sound advantage of providing employment in the depressed areas, where most bogs are. Ironically, now that peat is cheaper than oil and coal, the supplies are running out.

Peat production is expected to begin to decline in the middle of this decade, and this traditional and peculiarly Irish form of energy will contribute less and less to energy needs. There will remain, however, 800,000 acres of bogland which, while not suitable for large-scale development, will ensure that the farmer and the adventurous city dweller can still get ample supplies.

A proposal for a nuclear power plant in Co. Wick has encountered stiff public opposition, and the Department of Industry has promised a public inquiry into the £350m project. But many people, and not just those connected with the anti-nuclear movement, are sceptical about the inquiry, believing that it will not fully explore the issues.

The executive of An Taisce, an organization con-

cerned with conservation and the environment, said that the decision to invest in nuclear power was apparently being taken on the basis of available grants from EEC partners rather than from considerations of national economy in energy use. The proposed 650-megawatt nuclear power station would perhaps, by 1990, generate 3 to 4 per cent of energy used and would not solve transport problems.

Last November Mr Frank Cluskey, leader of the Labour Party, called for a referendum on nuclear power, and at least one eminent government adviser has given warning that the nuclear plant could put the Irish Republic at the mercy of multinational uranium cartels.

Test drilling in Co. Donegal has shown traces of uranium, and mining will go ahead if good supplies are found.

Conservationists, however, argue that bad weather could cause a serious spread of pollution. The case of the pro-nuclear lobby would be strengthened if uranium was discovered, and the anti-nuclear faction awaits developments with concern.

In the search for new energy supplies the republic has at least managed to discover gas, although only in one place off Cork. By a small quantity, but the Kin-sale field is worth the equivalent of 40 million tons of coal a year and at that rate could be used for another 20 years.

The domestic user is not benefiting. Apart from a trickle which is offered to householders in Cork, the gas is used in the manufacture of commercial fertilizer. Not everybody was happy at the decision: some argued that it should be used for the generation of electricity, but the huge cost of imported fertilizer finally persuaded the authorities to use their gas for this purpose.

Among all the arguments about energy, there is only one proposition agreed upon: the Republic of Ireland has entered the race against time for new sources of energy.

C.T.

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Ireland

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REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Maeve Binchy, *The Irish Times*, examines tourist standards

Just what the Europeans are looking for

Last year more than a million people came to Ireland from Britain for a holiday. This may have included large numbers who work in England and came home to see their mothers and fathers and it includes those who came on conferences and for business combined with holidays. However, the figure is none the less impressive, because for a while there was the deep fear that British tourists—on whom the whole Irish tourist industry had been based—were going to disappear.

The events of the past 10 years in Northern Ireland have not helped to foster rapport; cheap and competitive continental holidays for British holiday-makers were another source of difficulty; and the accusations of an Irish holiday being pricey and awkward turned people's minds elsewhere.

But now apparently things are much improved. In the last year for which statistics are available, British tourists have contributed £79m to the Irish economy, and the sight of cars with GB registrations is now commonplace. The hotels that had planned their new rooms and their whole strategy back in the 1960s—specifically with the British holidaymaker in mind—are now able to breathe again.

The fear that the whole expansion and development to cater for an English type of tourist might have been wasted is receding.

Nowadays Irish hoteliers and tourist concerns come freely and enthusiastically to British tourist fairs and promotions in order to sell their goods. Ireland seems to be back in business as a holiday destination.

In many ways the falling-off of British tourists may have helped the Irish tourist industry. It had to examine itself more honestly. Were the standards high enough? Could something be done to make the food more appealing? Were hoteliers expecting people to come and sit in a hotel for a week without making any effort to entertain them or even to let them know what was available?

Another great error was revealed at this time, for the Irish tourist interests realized they had been concentrating too much on the market next door. It had never been foreseen that such tragic things would occur in Northern Ireland and that these would have the other less important (but significant) effect of ruining the British holiday trade.

Should Irish tourism not have been trying to court the European market much earlier? Ireland looked nervously towards Europe for tourists and achieved a most unexpected success. The country was proved to have exactly what a great many Europeans wanted: peace, fresh air, opportunities for boating, fishing and riding horses. Ireland had unspoiled, windswept cliffs and long beaches with no so-called "facilities". To Germans who were accustomed to overcrowded inland waterways where boat hire was expensive Ireland seemed a paradise. I met a German couple last year who had hired a motor cruiser on the Shannon and they said that the wife's salary for two weeks paid for the whole trip. They could come to Ireland two or three times a year for what it would cost them for one boating holiday in Germany.

I met a Dutch family who take their children on the horse-drawn caravan holiday every year. They pretend it is for the children, but actually they enjoy it themselves. The sheer peace of winding at four miles an hour down a leaf-covered Irish lane, with affectionate feeling for an Irish horse, is therapeutic after weeks of industrial stress.

These tales are not meant as hymns of praise to the delights of Ireland. They are in a way a condemnation of the tourist business for not having had the sense to see and recognize what Ireland had to offer. We had to wait until the British tourists stopped coming in order to woo the Europeans, then we had to wait until the Europeans told us what was priceless before we realized it for ourselves.

Now nobody will build monstrosities of hotels in beauty spots. Now nobody will grant all kinds of facilities to foreigners to come in and build the kind of garantuan hotels we did not have the money for ourselves. Now, just in time, we can see what the island really does have to offer.

What it has to offer is a great variety of specialist holidays. I would encourage anyone who played golf, or liked boats, fishing, riding or any active to come to Ireland. The sense of participation enhances any holiday, and it is fair to say that in Ireland the pleasure will be further increased by helpful people such as patient golf professionals, witty horse handlers, and marvellously confident boatmen who give you thousands of pounds' worth of craft as casually as if they were selling a pound of tomatoes.

Ireland is a country which can be seen very well through its festivals, too. These are for people to come together on the finest of excuses, and you might well meet the same people at the seafood festival in Kenmare as at the light opera festival in Waterford, the Merriman summer school in Clare, the Galway Oyster Festival or Listowel races. A festival consists of organized days and disorganized nights, for its mere existence means an extension of the drinking hours and of opening times in the pubs.

Ireland is well seen, too, through two kinds of accommodation in particular. One is its newly established houses. These are listed and praised in international as well as Irish guides, so the praise is not just parochial. Often they are family homes with all the original paintings and silver, and the whole family joining in to make the guests feel welcome. At the other end of the financial scale, but equally tasteful and showing what is best in Ireland, are the farmhouses. This type of holiday, ideal for families with young children, has become enormously popular and many an Irish farmyard now has young visitors from abroad.

Some of the best Irish houses are now being visited by young people with fascination at the animals while their parents sigh enviously over the great



Cruising on the river Shannon, the longest waterway in the British Isles and a popular playground in the republic.

economic advantages the Irish farmers seem to have gained from membership of the European Community.

I do not know why we never thought of opening up our stately houses and gardens to the public until recently. Years ago I used to tour British houses with guides and look at the rooms and scroll the gardens, and at the back of my mind there was a chauvinistic feeling that we must have had just as good back at home. We certainly had them, as any list of houses to view will show, and the tourist in Ireland can examine the amazing Beil collection of paintings in Rushmore, co Wicklow. Last year I saw an English couple at Russborough having to sit down and recover when they realized that there were six Murillos in the dining room alone and that there also seemed to be a Goya or a Reynolds anywhere else one cared to look.

Then there is the castle of Glenties, where the Knight of Glenties, Madam FitzGerald, may be there to show you the treasures. Or there is James Joyce's tower just outside Dublin—and dozens more.

There is a haphazard charm about Ireland which is hard to define and hard to forget. It is that kind of charm and the memory of it that brings the people back, and now when they are coming back they will find a better Ireland: one that learnt a lot from its mistakes at the boom time, and one that somehow found class and style and quality when times were lean.

Festivals are an established tradition

John Higgins comments, con brio, upon the events of the year from Dublin's twentieth-century music in January to Wexford's opera in October, with films at Cork in the meantime

Ireland usually has the distinction of opening and closing the European festival year. The strains of the New Year's morning concert by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, devoted annually to various members of the Strauss family, have scarcely faded when, 1,000 miles away, Dublin is warming up Royal in a house crammed with scores and operatic memorabilia.

The new director, Adrian Slack, is maintaining the tradition of staging operas which are known more by their reputation than in performance. This year's trio will be Puccini's early work, *Edgar, Handel's Orlando*, and Carlisle Floyd's *Of Mice and Men*, based on the John Steinbeck novella and claimed as a European premiere. Wexford has come a long way since it performed *Back to the Rose of Castille* in 1951.

Probably few of the Wexford audience go to a celebration, centred coincidentally on a rose (of a rather different kind) earlier in the year, which puts in a strong challenge to be the most joyous of the Irish days of merry-making: co Kerry's Rose of Tralee International Festival. Some may quibble at the word "international", but they will probably withdraw their objections if they have a winner or two during the three days of horse-racing which are the principal attraction. Outside the race-course and Wexford visitors should not forget the steeplechase meeting in that town on the first Thursday of each festival—the whole of Kerry seems to go on fete.

The streets of Tralee are crammed with musicians, who tend to be rather better organized than in the other towns which draw the fiddlers and old Irish harpers. Tralee, which out of festival time can seem a rather grey little town, far removed from the image which Count John McCracken used to project, suddenly puts on a new face. The choice of hotels is not outstanding but the Mount Brandon is the best.

In the next county the annual Cork Film Festival often seems to be under financial threat, but this year it is "definitely on" and runs from June 7 to 14. There are regular battles with the Irish censor over what may and may not be screened, but visiting critics disappointed by cancellations can find consolation in the dining room of the Arbutus

Lodge Hotel, which has one of the best kitchens in the land. There is a fine view from the restaurant over the grey slate roofs of the city touched by a little smoke drifting down across the harbour. A true taste of Ireland.

Some with a leaning towards the ethnic arts may have made their way a fortnight earlier to Ennis in co Clare where the Fleadh Nua is devoted entirely to traditional Irish music and entertainment for four days. Those who claim to avoid festivals because they bring in too many foreign visitors will have nothing to complain about on this score in Ennis, although the locals have been heard to object that too many of the prizes are awarded to the invading Liverpool Irish.

Farther north in Castellar there is the Four Day Walks Festival (June 26-29). Cars are banned during this period, but visitors are asked to come away with a certificate saying that they completed the course. There is at the same time a pop music festival sponsored by Berger Paints. One of the locals dubbed the festival the Follies Berger, but the paint company has good-naturedly continued to open its crotch of gold.

And so in autumn to the capital and the biggest event—the Dublin Theatre Festival—perhaps stopping off in Galway where the oyster season is celebrated in early October by a ceremonial molusc opening at Paddy Burke's well-known establishment in Clarinbridge. From September 29 until October 18 the festival takes

over every theatre in Dublin, and several buildings normally used for other purposes.

At the moment 30 productions are promised for this year, of which seven are claimed as world premieres. Those numbers, though, are likely to change over the next seven months as Dublin and its playwrights work up to the last minute. The three weeks usually draw the London impresarios looking for a Christmas production, and more often than not Hugh Leonard obliges them with something.

These are the festivals, or at least some of them, to sample. The one to avoid is St Patrick's Week (March 14-22) when Dublin is turned over to parades led by drum majors, and the city is a riotous American tourist wearing green hats. It is a time when Dubliners run for cover.

Meanwhile, for the next six weeks, Londoners can get their own taste of Ireland without moving far from their homes. The London Festival of the Irish Arts, which begins on February 1, is spread over almost 50 venues—from Action Space through the ICA to the Wigmore Hall. The pick of the events must include the London premiere of Hugh Leonard's *A Life*, which was first seen at the Dublin Theatre Festival last autumn (Old Vic, February 4-16) and the Irish Ballet Company's version of Synge's *The Playboy of the Western World* with music by The Chieftains, who will be at Sadler's Wells to support the dancers (March 4-8).

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MR SIRS OFF SIDE

Undaunted by the superior timidity of the House of Lords the Court of Appeal perseveres in its determination to set limits to the scope of the immunities granted to trade unions by statute. By granting an injunction to restrain the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation from extending its strike to non-nationalized steel producers Lord Denning and his colleagues have unquestionably decided the issue according to its broad merits. There is at present no dispute between these private employers and the union. The strike call is to men who by and large do not want to hear it, against employers with whom the union has no quarrel. Its effect on profits and employment in the privately owned steel industry would be damaging. The damage it would do to manufacturing industry is wider still. It is a strike without merit or justification.

The ground on which the court granted the injunction was that the strike was probably unlawful because it was called not in furtherance of a trade dispute, which would have earned immunity, but in furtherance of a political dispute. The judges convicted Mr Bill Sirs out of his own mouth, so to speak. He had given notice to the Independent Steel Employers Association in these unguarded terms, "Whilst agreeing that there is no dispute with any independent steel employer [my executive council] were firmly of the opinion that this dispute is becoming politically stage-managed by the Conservative Government. . . . It is because of the political intervention that my executive council feel that we should now take the action of involving the private

sector in the public battle against the government attitude."

Perhaps by putting it like that Mr Sirs hoped to send the private steel producers to their friends in government to plead for a softer line. What he has actually done is allow the Court of Appeal to find that his union has embarked on a second, political dispute distinguishable from the first, trade dispute; and unlawful action in furtherance of a political dispute have no immunity at law.

Though not wholly blocking it, the recent judgment of the House of Lords in the *McShane* case has weakened the argument of "remoteness" in its application to trade disputes. The argument has become less capable of supporting the equitable principle that people should not be deprived of the means of redress when they are embroiled by trade unions in disputes not of their making and to which they are in no sense parties. On the facts of the present case that principle would seem sufficient, in equity if not in law, to make the extension of the strike unlawful. By choosing a different ground, namely that it was a political dispute that the union was proposing to embark on, the Court of Appeal has injected another dose of uncertainty into the law of strikes.

All that is said about the union's objectives in extending the strike can be said equally about the strike proper. It too is aimed at winning some relaxation of the government's financial policy towards the steel industry—the only hope, the unions are informed, of "more money on the table". Does it follow that the primary strike against BSC

has turned political too, having as its object coercion of the government?

If not, what makes one political and not the other? Is it that in BSC the employer's ability to pay wages is ultimately determined by the government (so it is all right to coerce the government) and in the private sector of the steel industry it is not? Where in the legislation on the subject is the basis for that distinction to be found?

How are those unions whose numerous membership have their pay directly or indirectly determined by government policy to understand their position in the light of this judgment? Is their latitude to strike narrower than that of other unions? Or their freedom to elicit sympathetic action from other groups of workers?

What happens, should those times ever return, when the government of the day has a full-blown incomes policy, which becomes a factor, perhaps the decisive factor, in most pay settlements in and out of the public sector? What meaning would "coercing the government" be given in that context?

This judgment of the Court of Appeal is most timely, not only for its merits, but because it obliges the Government to reconsider the Bill it now has before Parliament and convert it into a piece of legislation which deals comprehensively with industrial disputes and the scope of immunities in connection with them. To the imbalance of the present law must now be added its uncertainty. It should not be left to the courts to reform it. That is Parliament's business.

THE RETURN OF MR MUGABE

Mr Mugabe's opening election speech when he returned to Southern Rhodesia was addressed as much to whites as to blacks. As was widely foreseen, it was moderate in content and reassuring in tone. To the crowd yesterday he offered two vital things—peace and spoils. The war, he insists, is over; the past is to be forgotten; the wounds bound up. After Mr Nkomo's own speech Mr Mugabe could not speak very differently. The passionate will for normalcy and stability is shown in the mass return of refugees to their homes before the ceasefire is converted from truce to peace. In this respect he now seems to stake almost everything upon electoral victory, even if some guerrillas are being kept in the bush in reserve to resist hostilities if the results seem unacceptable to Zanu.

The spoils he offers are a reformed opportunistic society with jobs, land and power at every level going progressively to the Marxist. The Marxist society in which he personally believes has no electoral appeal. Perhaps many in Rhodesia know, as Mugabe certainly knows, that African Marxist states are characterized by poverty, hunger, tyranny and want. It is for this reason that President Machel of Mozambique

wants a return to the productive normalcy of Rhodesia: he needs its traditional food surplus.

Many blacks want the whites to stay, provided they stay as employers and patrons, rather than as a caste of masters. Black majority feeling is for a traditional society with high employment, good wages, open promotion and more land. Land is here the key. Eventually nothing can satisfy African land-hunger but virtually all European land. But there is no desire for collectivized farms, so Mr Mugabe has wisely decided to find land for resettlement—there is a good deal—without undertaking to destroy immediately the core of the white agrarian economy. He may well be torn between a nationalistic predilection to give land back to the blacks on traditional tenures and the correct Marxist line of conveniently nationalizing white landfunds for conversion to African collectives—possibly on the not very promising Tanzanian precedent.

To the whites he said that they would have their share in a mixed economy. He rejected a white exodus. How sincere he is time alone can show. It has been freely said that Mr Mugabe is alert to the value of white skills in black states—if wielded by Cubans or other ideological

allies. He may have noticed, however, the immense importance of specifically ex-British white skills in Zambia, a less complex economy than Zimbabwe will inherit. As far as they go, his words fit the British Government's long term objective of keeping the white settlement money in the service of a moderately-led Zimbabwe.

In so far as Mr Mugabe's speech recognizes the realities of Rhodesia it is to be welcomed. His own uncertainties may be revealed in his attacks on the Governor for favouring Bishop Muzorewa's party. If Britain ever favoured the Bishop its pressure upon him at Lancaster House should suggest that this is no longer Whitehall policy. The Bishop lost most at Lancaster House, and has gone on losing. Mr Nkomo, on the other hand, has made a big comeback.

Mr Mugabe, already soliciting an alliance with the white group in parliament, appears to foresee that he may not emerge as the largest party, and that he will be able to wield power only in coalition. To make overtures to the whites looks like a concession to the enormous influence that rival tribal loyalties are exerting in this election and must continue to do so after it.

David Wood

The end of the road for Mr Callaghan

Mr James Callaghan, a man who has his proper share of pride or even vanity, must not take it hard if Labour politicians do not conceal the impatience with which they await the announcement of his resignation from the party leadership, or if some of them rebel to the Disraelian pole he managed at last to climb to the top.

In March, after all, he will be 68, and if Mrs Thatcher goes to the country on the new electoral register in spring, 1984, as she might, he would be rising 72. He has reached the point where more than 50 years' experience in the trade union and Labour movement must be reckoned a rapidly diminishing asset. The only service now in his power to give is to go with grace. Elder statesmanship on the back benches and the sweet pleasures of the Sussex farm beckon.

Until last week he had a more than plausible excuse to stay in post. He alone stood a chance of heading off the left-dominated national executive committee from a set of party constitutional decisions removing the election of party leader from the Parliamentary Labour Party, denying the party leader the effective control of election management, and making every Labour MP the puppet of his constituency management committee under threat of a new re-election procedure.

Mr Callaghan's strongest gifts have always had to do with party management, yet last Wednesday he narrowly failed, even with the help of moderate leaders of the Trade Unionists for Labour Victory, to get a better balance of forces in the commission that will inquire into party constitutional reform and report by early summer. The commission stays stacked with a left-wing majority. Nobody may now

reasonably doubt what his report will propose. Labour constituency moderates have lost. Moderate Labour trade union leaders have lost. Most members of the Parliamentary Labour Party have lost. There is no further court of appeal except the party conference next autumn, and only a fool would build hope on that.

Above all, Mr Callaghan has lost, and if he were to continue in the leadership with any authority at all it would be a battle he had to win. He is now in the position where he cannot by managerial influence or resignation timing ensure the election of his preferred successor, and every day he stays on prolongs the frustration of moderate leadership candidates who need to declare themselves and compete on equal terms with left-wing rivals.

If Mr Callaghan put down the mantle of leadership soon, the Parliamentary Labour Party could quickly elect a new leader, and he would present himself to the autumn party conference as the sitting tenant. It is an odd thing about the Labour Party that, unlike the Conservative Party, they are poor hands at the business of party management, and with the woolly-minded but worthy George Lansbury as a possible exception.

A new Labour leader elected soon by the PLP, which still has a fading moderate majority, would at least survive through the next two general elections. Mr Callaghan cannot plausibly survive until 1983 or 1984. No more needs to be said. If Mr Callaghan wants to achieve his unmistakable objective, he should go out without delay.

Allow me to say that until now I have offered no opinion on the internal constitutional dispute within the Labour Party, partly because I have lived as a reporter through too many of their silly end self-destructive internal quarrels, partly because in practice the Labour Party is never quite so stupid as its own publicity. But there remain one or two questions that have to do with the United Kingdom Party's situation if the Labour Party's constitutional reforms were to go through.

Let us assume that the principal aim of the reforms is to ensure that the party conference, say, imposes on the Labour Party one of its cherished left-wing policies as leaders who happen to be unable to command and sustain the support of the

PLP in the House of Commons. If he is prime minister the Labour government must either fall, or the Queen, after taking soundings, must send for one or more Labour leaders and ask if they are prepared to form a government. A Labour Party conference could easily be quickly called to produce a name of some sort.

Now then suppose that he or she cannot command a majority in the PLP, or indeed cannot rely on the willingness of leading Labour figures to serve in the cabinet. What happens then? The Queen would presumably send for the Opposition leader. The Labour government would go out, and a coalition would temporarily come in. How on earth would that work in some circumstances many of us have lived through?

And how would it work if party conference decisions became, as the left wingers, Biblical writ? As Mr Reg Freeman, himself a left-winger, reminds me, it has not been at all unusual for party conference decisions to be overturned from one year to another, or for contradictory resolutions to be passed by the same party conference. To quote: "In 1959, conference was against unilateral nuclear disarmament. In 1960 it was in favour, and in 1961 it was against." Labour debates continue after party conference decisions, not least among MPs who have responsibilities to the nation and their constituencies as well as to their party membership.

Another question: "In 1968/70 conference repeatedly endorsed the Labour government's statutory incomes policy, but some Labour MPs (the left-wingers) now challenge the NEC imposed every Prices and Incomes Bill introduced. . . . In 1973, incomes policy was rejected, but a motion urged joint action by government and the trade union movement on low pay—that is an incomes policy." So writes Mr Reg Freeman.

In short, party conferences are weather-vanes, not practical day-to-day political decisions that must be treated as sacrosanct and mandatory upon a prime minister and his cabinet. They are not the whole of democracy, but only a part of it; and Mr Wedgwood Benn and Mr Eric Heffer, as they float over the crest of Mr Callaghan's sea, know that perfectly well. Yet Mr Callaghan is no longer the man to continue a battle he has already lost.

The hunting of the Quango

From Mr David Hobman

Sir, As a member of two Quangos which have both been disbanded, I refuse to be made to feel guilty about being an expensive luxury or a usurper of Ministerial powers.

Indeed, until I began to read that I was a form of contemporary parasite, I was happily living in the mistaken belief that I was actually giving a form of service to my country, often in my own time or that of my generous employer.

As a member of the Meritocracy Board, appointed by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer when he was responsible for Consumer Affairs, I was invited with others to tender advice on ways in which the transfer might best be achieved in the interests of everyone concerned.

It did not serve as an advocate for meritocracy, although it was in that context that the board was first attacked in a campaign to sever the ties of the meritocracy with the election when meritocracy became an obviously popular cause to pursue.

The membership of the board comprised a number of distinguished leaders in agriculture, education, engineering, manufacturing and retailing apart from those of us more closely identified with consumers. Many represented interests closely associated with the Government. The fees which most members could have commanded as consultants would have been considerably greater than anything received for services given through the board and its specialisms groups.

My other Quango, the Personal Services Council, paid nothing apart from travel and subsistence. Here again, I felt honoured to be associated with a group of men and women of distinction in their professions who gave most generously of their time and energy to a number of working parties which made far greater claims than simply attending council meetings. We were, in effect, that frequently commended species on which the fulfilment of many current social policies depends.

The Government may well have been right in believing there are too many Quangos. It is perfectly entitled to set up or close down any advisory bodies it wishes, and to appoint those people who seem most appropriate to serve as members.

However, it is mistaken to pillory those men and women who have given service to the state by describing the destruction of their work as being virtuous. They may be wrong in some way. There is always the danger of being wrong, at least, of the Quangos have been closed down.

In the circumstances, the baby often gets thrown out with the bath water and as far as real economies are concerned, reduced expenditure of small above-the-line budgets can often be replaced by far higher alternative below-the-line costs which can more easily be lost from more immediate sight and which are actually less cost effective than the mechanisms they replace.

Yours etc,
DAVID HOBMAN,
Director General,
Age Concern England,
60 Piccadilly Road,
Museum,
London, W1P 8LP.
January 17.

The price of gas

From Mr Barry Marsh

Sir, Mr Michael Posner writes (January 23) in support of the proposal to increase gas prices and states that the answer to the problem of poor families' inability to pay is for Government to spend more on social services.

But what does Mr Posner mean by "social services"? The usual provision of social services departments in the form of social workers and home helps are no substitute for a fuel subsidy. If Mr Posner equates "social services" with income maintenance then he must surely advocate that the welfare state Government which is allowing child benefits to be eroded by inflation, which is currently proposing to reform the social security system on a "no cost" basis and which has severely cut the fuel subsidy of the previous Administration.

In any event, selective subsidies for the poor have a stigmatising effect. The solution to the problem is a differential tariff which would allow all domestic consumers a quantity of cheaper gas and electricity. Profligate users of energy can be charged considerably more when their allowance is exhausted and this would encourage conservation.

Finally, Mr Posner's suggestion that the price of gas can be readily redistributed by taking a penny off income tax rates will be of no help to the poorer consumers of gas who do not pay income tax. Yours faithfully,
BARRY MARSH,
Development Officer,
Family Service Unit,
207 Old Marylebone Road, NW1.
January 22.

The Turner bequest

From Mr Humphrey Brooke

Sir, For over 70 years the housing of the Turner bequest at the Tate (report, January 22) should have offered no problem. Since Sir J. Davenport (father of Lord Duren) generously gave nine new galleries to the Tate for this specific purpose the subsequent transfer to the British Museum of all the 19,000 watercolours is a separate matter caused by the flooding of the Tate's basement in 1929.

Incidentally, much the best solution for Somerset House would be as a permanent home for Count Seltzer's internationally renowned collection. With an appropriate admission charge this project should be self-supporting. It has been suggested by Lord Amman and others.

Yours, etc,
HUMPHREY BROOKE,
8 Feham Crescent, SW7.
January 20.

Ethnic questions in the 1981 Census

From Mr Jeff Crawford

Sir, Your rather excellent leading article (January 10) and subsequent letters only partly deal with the controversy surrounding the 1981 Census. The current debate is centred on one question, racial or ethnic origin. Those of us who live or work in Harrogate found another five questions in the Harrogate Test Census even more objectionable than the ethnic question.

These questions, for, among other things, the year of entry in the United Kingdom; is the person naturalized or registered as a United Kingdom citizen; the name of the country which issued the passport on which the person last entered the United Kingdom; parents' country of birth, even if dead; address of place of work.

On February 24, 1979, a day-long seminar was jointly sponsored in Harrogate by the Commission for Racial Equality, Harrogate Community Relations Council, and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS). There was strong representation from the local Asian, Cypriot and West Indian communities.

It was decided to form a working party, which produced a well-received report on the Harrogate questionnaire. The working party closely studied a number of related publications, which included the Government's White Paper on the Census, and the parliamentary select committee's report on race relations and immigration, session 1977-78.

We are convinced that the five questions, cited in the first paragraph of this letter, would be correlated to a number of looming political decisions, such as immigration controls and new nationality law. The select committee, session 1977-78, recommended that:

(1) The Government should institute an independent inquiry to consider a system of internal controls of immigration;

Links with Chile

From Mr Geoffrey Bindman

Sir, I visited Chile in March, 1979, as solicitor for the family of William Beausire, a dual citizen of Britain and Chile last seen in a torture centre there in August, 1975. No explanation had been given for his disappearance by the Chilean authorities but just before my visit the Supreme Court had appointed judges to investigate the Beausire case as well as many hundreds of other disappearances. There were other signs that the military Government was responding at last to international pressure for the restoration of human rights: the magazine *Oy* and a broadcasting station critical of the Junta were allowed to reopen and a group of democratic lawyers felt confident enough to enter into public debate about proposals for a new constitution.

This relaxation did not of course signify a change in policy, simply meant that the diplomatic and economic sanctions were beginning to bite; the Junta was acknowledging that Chile could not renew friendly relations with former allies and trading partners unless human rights were safeguarded and those responsible for the torture and murder of innocent people were brought to justice.

Good relations with Britain are much more valued in Chile than in generally restive here, and particularly by the leaders of the armed forces, several of whom were trained in Britain. Leading Christian Democrats, who are likely to be included in a future democratic government in Chile, stressed to me the vital importance of maintaining sanctions from abroad, and the

(2) "The Home Secretary, in consultation with other departments, and in particular the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, should improve and enlarge the official information available on immigration."

(3) "The Government should give priority to their consideration of British nationality law, with a view to publishing a White Paper on their proposals."

These questions, for, among other things, the year of entry in the United Kingdom; is the person naturalized or registered as a United Kingdom citizen; the name of the country which issued the passport on which the person last entered the United Kingdom; parents' country of birth, even if dead; address of place of work.

If, however, there is a genuine desire to measure the several different ethnic groups resident in the UK on Census day, the five objectionable questions should be completely dropped and replaced by a straightforward question asking to what ethnic or cultural group the respondent belongs.

Such a question has been readily accepted in other countries. I am convinced there would be minimal opposition, if any at all, if this request was fully met along with concrete guarantees of confidentiality being given through new legislation.

The poor response (54 per cent) to the Harrogate test is indicative of what would happen in 1981 if the Government does not positively respond to the fears and demands of the ethnic minorities and those of the white community who are similarly and equally concerned.

Yours faithfully,
JEFF CRAWFORD,
Senior Community Relations Officer,
Harrogate Community Relations Council,
144 Turnpike Lane, N8,
January 21.

absence of the British Ambassador was one of the most important of these.

Sadly, since last May there has already been a noticeable reversion to earlier more repressive policies. The publication of *Oy* was suspended by decree of the Junta without warning. There has been a fresh spate of arrests by the security police, and there is evidence of new tortures. It is far from fanciful to suppose that the election of a Tory government raised hopes that the ambassador would be returned, and now that his return has been announced the prospects for human rights in Chile can only be worse.

The Minister of State, Mr Nicholas Ridley, MP, has explicitly denied that the decision to restore the ambassador has anything to do with the improvement of trade. The only reason he gave for the decision, according to your *parliamentary report*, was that "we may present our views on human rights and other matters at a higher level with greater impact."

This is unconvincing. The ambassador's functions without the ambassador and the change of affairs, Mr Eric Angell, took me to see the Minister of Justice, short notice and apparently without difficulty.

The British Government plainly believes in the effectiveness of a boycott against the Soviet Union. It is irrational and wrong to lift the effective boycott of Chile before it has achieved its object, for the torture and disappearance of William Beausire remain unexplained and unpunished.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BINDMAN,
1 Euston Road, NW1.

Saving the Large Blue

From Mr John Lodge

Sir, The letter written by Mr Robin Crane (January 10), concerning my article "The secret flight of the Large Blue" (December 22) was shown to me on return from a wildlife adventure expedition with our young members to Hampshire's historical New Forest.

It is sometimes said that conservation is not a subject for amateur dabbling, but my own scientific studies and essays, concerning the Large Blue butterfly, has only confirmed a belief in the importance of those with an interest which may be likened to that of the Reverend Gilbert White of Selborne.

As I looked briefly into those eyes of a child, I knew that I had to fight and fight again, not only to save the Large Blue, but everything that is the call of the wild. The promise I then made, has been kept, and now I shall watch once more Britain's rarest butterfly take off on its majestic flight across the Cotswold Hills.

Finally, my work for the Large Blue butterfly, has not cost anyone a single penny, but the Society is anxious to obtain further butterfly equipment, books etc, for our continued studies in the science and conservation of British lepidoptera and other forms of wildlife.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LODGE,
Founder,
The British Wildlife Society,
Wilderslopes,
Tarka,
London Road,
Maidon,
Essex,
January 21.

Economic decline

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA

Sir, If Professor Hutchison (January 18) really believes that the Trade Union Acts of 1917 and 1927 were mainly responsible for Britain's relative decline in the latter part of the 19th Century, he cannot be familiar with the extensive literature on the subject. I would particularly recommend to his attention Professor Aldcroft's seminal paper, *The Entrepreneur and the British Economy, 1870-1914*, which appeared in the August 1964 issue of the *Economic History Review*, to Professor David Landes' monumental study in Vol VI of *The Cambridge Economic History of Europe* (now republished under the title *The Unbound Prometheus*; to Professor G. C. Allen's *The British Disease* (1976); to Professor Margaret Gowing's Wilkins lecture to

the Royal Society, published in the *Oxford Review of Education*, 1978; and to Professor Roderick's *Economic and Industry in the Nineteenth Century* published last year. All these attribute decline mainly to the limited technical competence and extreme conservatism of British industrial management.

Incidentally, Lord Balogh and Mr Opie (letter, January 15) were mistaken in placing the beginning of Britain's relative economic decline in the 1880s. According to Professor Landes, the beginning should be put in the 1850s and 1860s; and according to Professor Gowing, by the time of the Great Paris Exhibition of 1889, Britain appeared prominent in "scarcely a dozen" out of the 90 classes at the Exhibition.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge.

How Eisenhower viewed Churchill

From Mr Anthony Seldon

Sir, The headline treatment given to the "revelations" from the Eisenhower papers (January 26) gives an entirely misleading impression of Eisenhower's relationship with Churchill, and of the Anglo-American relationship during 1951-55. It is just not good enough to quote passages at random which, incidentally, come from Eisenhower's diary, not memoranda, and which have been accessible to scholars for some time.

Eisenhower felt that Churchill should retire: this is certainly true, but he was at all times devoted to him, and treated him with great respect. Indeed, Eisenhower's staff were frequently concerned lest Churchill's great influence over him should persuade the President to adopt a course of action against his better judgment.

The article greatly exaggerates the extent to which Eisenhower's opinion of Churchill adversely affected relations between Britain and the United States. There were, of course, differences between the two countries as over questions of colonialism, and on policy towards the Far East; but the bond remained deep, and of great value to both nations during Churchill's last years as Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY SELDON,
3c Morphet Terrace, SW1.
January 26.

Invasion of Afghanistan

From Mr David Stevenson

Sir, I am surprised to read in Robert Fisk's *Afghanistan Diary* today (January 23) the reference to "G. A. Henry's grotesquely partial accounts of the Anglo-Afghan wars that misled us all."

I can only conclude that Robert Fisk must read either *For Name and Fame* or *To Herat and Kabul*. Certainly the books are written from British eyes; however, frequent tributes to the Afghans are paid.

Considering that they were written before 1900 for schoolboys, the absence of jingoism is remarkable. For example, in the preface to the account of the 1842 war: "Of all the wars in which our troops have taken part never was one entered upon so recklessly or so unjustifiably," and, on the Roberts expedition: "It is true that we have warred with and beaten them, but our retirement after victory has at least shown them that we have no desire to take their country; while, on the other hand, they know that we are not so easily won upon when Russia has once laid her hand there is no escape."

Readers will find Henry's accounts of the Afghans more relevant to today's events than Mr Fisk's tales of lies and woe. Russia has demonstrated once again the peril in ignoring the lessons of history which Henry was pre-eminently writing for the Victorian schoolboy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STEVENSON,
20 Upper Phillimore Gardens, W8.
January 23.

Poll apart

From Mr Jacques Arnold

Sir, The ORC poll you commissioned on the voters' mood (report, January 17) fell into the elementary trap of phrasing a major question in such a way as to make the answer virtually a foregone conclusion. It asked whether a party should gain seats in proportion to the votes it receives. Surprisingly, even such a self-evident question only obtained affirmative replies from 72 per cent of the respondents.

Had you asked the respondents whether they gave importance to regional variations, candidates' personal votes, and local representation, you would no doubt have also received affirmative replies.

However these attributes of our present system would be sacrificed for the brutal arithmetic of proportional representation systems. The two questions would bring contradictory replies. As would the affirmative to the mythical questions as to whether respondents are for cuts in taxes and for increased welfare spending by government.

The only overwhelming conclusions one can draw from the poll is that the electorate prefers no one party to any particular form of one party system, and that its major party allegiances for one, not for the Liberals, and it would not like to see the Labour Party break up. Nevertheless it is concerned at the leftward lurch of the Labour Party, and the trade union power therein.

Your poll strongly suggests that public disquiet is not so much with the present party and electoral system, as with the Labour Party's internal politics. It is a judgment on the intellectual bankruptcy and spineless acquiescence of the Labour moderates in the past decade.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUES ARNOLD,
Hawthorn,
Horne Road,
Oundle,
Northamptonshire.
January 21.

Various tendencies

From Mrs Nancy Irwin

Sir, Has *The Times* been infiltrated by Militant? Your current stories of "Trotskyist infiltration" are scarcely the acme of investigative journalism, for they appear simply to spin the words of a Militant congratulation. Obviously, Militant handouts have to say Militant is successful or their members would not keep handing over money.

The reality is somewhat different in Labour Parties of my experience: although Militant supporters are not, admittedly, quite so lazy as those of the extreme right wing, the main "Militant tendency" I have noticed is absence when there is work to be done, a technique unlikely to lead to office in the Labour Party, let alone control.

Yours faithfully,
NANCY IRWIN,
11 Chisholm Road,
Croydon.
January 17.

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growing
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THE TIMES

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\$2.2640
Index 71.9
- **Dollar**
Index 84.9
- **Gold**
\$660 an ounce
- **Money**
3 mth £ 171.171
3 mth Euro-S 14.6-14.14
6 mth Euro-S 14.4-14.14
Friday's close

IN BRIEF

Retail plea for building tax relief

Extension of industrial building tax relief to construction developments by the retail trade is being urged on the Chancellor of the Exchequer by the Retail Consortium.

The move to bring this section of commercial property development in line with manufacturing industry for allowances is also supported by the Confederation of British Industry.

But the CBI wants allowances for all commercial property, starting with an 8 per cent initial allowance, followed by 8 per cent annual write-downs of the balance of costs.

In 1978 allowances were conceded to the hotel industry because of its contribution to tourism earnings — although with only a 3 per cent initial allowance compared with manufacturing's 50 per cent.

Jobs 'sure to go'

Weir, the Glasgow-based engineering group, has told its 8,500 employees that further redundancies "will almost certainly be unavoidable" during the coming year because of "rough" business conditions.

Viscount Weir, the group chairman, blames the 1979 national subcontracting strike, which was "utterly irresponsible and caused permanent damage".

£55m Paris sale

French chemical and engineering conglomerate Rhone Poulenc has sold its Paris headquarters complex for £500m (£55m) to Banque Arabe et Internationale d'Investissement, acting for private Kuwaiti investors, and Banque Privée de Gestion Financière.

British agents Richard Ellis acted for Rhone Poulenc.

Meccano plant vote

A decision on whether to allow representatives of Airfix Industries into the Meccano toy works at Edge Hill, Liverpool, will be taken at a meeting today by 840 workers occupying the plant. Shop stewards will recommend they should give some managers access to the records.

Membership increase

Membership of the Article Number Association, which administers barcoding of shop goods in preparation for laser scanning at retail checkouts, has jumped 30 per cent in three months to 422 and is expected to rise further.

Strike spread feared

An unofficial strike on the Mersey, which started when 234 shoregang men walked off on Friday night continued throughout the weekend without any apparent escalation. But employers fear the stoppage, over redundancy payments, could spread today.

£13.5m contracts

Gleeson Group has won 11 contracts worth nearly £13.5m, including foundations for the BP Desalter plant at Grange-mouth and extensions to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Oil price rise

Anglo's oil ministry has announced a \$5.94 per barrel price increase for Cabot's crude, backdated to January 1. Anglo's oil will now sell at \$31.79 a barrel.

Indian gas find

India has located a natural gas field in the Arabian Sea, north of Bombay, Mr P. C. Sethi, Petroleum and Chemicals Minister, announced. More tests will determine the potential.

Kuwait oil curbs

Kuwait is joining other Opec nations to limit severely the ability of customers to resell, exchange or trade its crude oil in an attempt to direct the flow of oil to end users and to cash in on any price rises from spot-oriented resales.

CBI presses for tougher law on closed shops

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Management organisations are attempting to get Whitehall to tighten the provisions for allowing and the closed shop contained in the Employment Bill. They argue that the Government could do further, because of developments in the steel strike and the hardening of attitudes to trade union activity expressed in *The Times* survey of opinions last week.

In its latest submissions to the Department of Employment, the Confederation of British Industry is seeking changes that would ensure new closed shops being introduced only if approved by a majority of employees in a ballot.

The Bill proposes that an individual dismissed for non-union membership after a new closed shop had been introduced could be entitled to compensation if no ballot had taken place. CBI dissidents argue that even the maximum compensation provides no effective deterrent to a determined trade union.

They say that belated recognition that a ballot is not an absolute requirement before closed shops are set up has caused a roughening in businessmen's attitudes to the Bill.

In a formal commentary on the Bill the CBI is seeking further safeguards. It is asking for legislation to provide that a term in the contract of employment, requiring union membership as the result of a new closed shop agreement, should be void and unenforceable unless the agreement has been approved in a ballot by the statutory majority.

Other organisations want more radical changes. The Institute of Directors is asking for an amendment to test existing closed shop agreements by ballot every five years. It also wants to give minority groups of trade unionists the right to call a ballot in given circumstances in the same way that a minority of shareholders can seek an overall expression of views.

Amendments relating to secondary picketing are also being requested. The TUC considers that the existing provisions of the Bill would do very little to prevent the unreasonable extension of picketing which is at present occurring. In its view, employers facing second-



Lord Gower: law is being reviewed.

ary picketing should have the right to sue trade unions as well as individual picketers.

In addition to seeking amendments to the Bill, the directors are asking the Government for a commitment to tackle trade union immunities in general.

Plans to introduce some form of legislation on these immunities are already well advanced, Lord Gower, Minister for Employment, told a meeting of the Institute of Personnel Managers last week that the Government is reviewing the law, and that it expects to publish a discussion paper shortly and will then consult with interested bodies.

It was clear from what Lord Gower said that action on immunities is regarded as a subject for separate legislation rather than as an item which could be incorporated in the Employment Bill.

Industrialists who have been lobbying backbench Tory members of the Select Committee on the Bill which had its first meeting last Thursday say that their views were heard sympathetically. However, the indications are that the Government does not want to introduce trade union law, but also could have wide-ranging implications for the way in which the currency markets function.

The department has charged the Foreign Association of north America (FOREX) and the Foreign Exchange Brokers Association (FEBA), both based in New York, with seeking to "fix, maintain and stabilise the commissions paid for brokers' services in the trading of foreign exchange of the dollar market in violation of America's anti-trust laws.

The complaint asserts that FOREX and FEBA acted in such a way that they "restrained, suppressed and eliminated competition".

FOREX consists of representatives from bankers, brokers and others involved in the foreign exchange and Euro-currency business and to some extent it is little more than a club. FEBA is the association for brokers in the currency

Inflation a threat to engineering — employers

By Peter Hill

Continued inflation at present levels, roughly twice the rate of other major industrialised nations, threatens to destroy much of the United Kingdom engineering industry, the Government was warned today.

The claim, made by the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF), whose 6,500 member companies employ about 2,000,000 workers, was contained in Budget submissions to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The EEF said it firmly believed that the current approach to the economy was correct, but it gave a warning that the future of the engineering sector was heavily dependent on the Government's ability to control the twin evils of continuing high inflation and excessive public spending.

Present controls in public spending "lead to cuts in capital expenditure, rises in the price for goods and services supplied by the public, to the private sector, and reductions in the quality of service", said the EEF. Cuts, it suggested, should be concentrated on current or revenue expenditure and should be accompanied by increased efficiency.

The EEF view is that current public expenditure will not be cut while public sector wage and salary levels are pushed up — largely as a result of the work of the Clegg Commission — at faster rates than the private sector can afford and much faster than productivity improvements.

The EEF singled out for particular mention the enormous cost of paying index-linked pensions to public sector employees which, it argued, only served to fuel inflation. It intends to make a separate and detailed submission on pension matters later.

The EEF urged further progress in eliminating the "poverty trap", and called for further reduction of taxation at the lower end of the scale and the ending of social security benefits.

It also asked the Chancellor to rationalise VAT payment systems and to reduce the National Insurance surcharge.

The EEF called on the Government to honour its commitment to abolish Capital Transfer Tax.

Revenue investigates £20m frauds

By John Huxley

Inland Revenue officials are investigating 37 cases of suspected tax abuse in the building industry, involving payments of £20m. They relate to misuse of the controversial 714 certificate issued under the construction industry tax deduction scheme to sub-contractors.

Inquiries are continuing, but Revenue officers say that "very large sums" are involved in some cases. Main representative organizations of the industry are being called in to discuss ways in which loopholes in the scheme can be closed.

Ironically, the present scheme was introduced in 1975 (and came into force in 1977) largely to prevent tax abuses associated with the "lump". Earlier measures had failed to prevent a serious loss of revenue.

Despite a six-fold increase in prosecutions between 1973 and 1977, fraud and other serious irregularities became widespread in the construction industry.

The Inland Revenue estimated tax losses at between £10m and £100m a year and said there was "some reason to believe that the figure may have been nearer the upper than the lower end of the scale".

The scheme, now under review, tightened up the law. It is a complicated set of arrangements aimed at ensuring that builders meet their tax and National Insurance obligations by the issue of certificates and the exchange of vouchers (similar to receipts) for payments made.

The industry, led by the National Federation of Building Trades Employers (NFBE), has argued that these arrangements impose a harsh bureaucratic and financial burden on companies which can cause personal hardship.

A consultative paper produced by the Inland Revenue, now being made available to the industry, accepts that the system imposes a heavy administrative cost and that some requirements, such as the quali-

tying conditions for obtaining certificates, sometimes produce indefensibly harsh results.

However, it concludes: "The highly mobile nature of the workforce and the history of past abuse suggests that some sort of arrangement for deduction of tax at source will continue to be necessary in the construction industry." The Inland Revenue is wary of moves to ease certification. "There are serious objections. The sub-contractor's certificate is a valuable document. In the wrong hands a certificate, even with a six months' validity, could be used to shelter from tax very large sums of money indeed." It adds that certificates change hands at high prices.

Tax abuses now being investigated are alleged to have exploited loopholes in the certificate scheme, one of which freed companies from the inconvenience of applying for a certificate by a photograph, which had to be presented personally.

The NFBE is now studying the paper, but it has already welcomed the Inland Revenue view that the jurisdiction of the Appeal Commissioners should be extended to all matters covering the issue of certificates.

The employers are also pleased by the proposed relaxation in the three-year rule, which requires applicants for a certificate to have been employed or self-employed in the United Kingdom throughout the whole of the three years preceding the application and to have met tax obligations during that time.

The Inland Revenue says experience has shown that the rule is too tightly drawn, because it prevented those who had been ill or temporarily off work for a month or so from obtaining a certificate.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State for the Treasury, said that, after consultations, the Government intended to introduce legislation to amend the present scheme.

Scrutiny of Whitehall spending is criticized

Sharp criticism of the way in which the spending of Civil Service departments is scrutinized and audited is contained in a memorandum from the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, published today.

The accountants say that there should be an increase in the size of the Government's auditing arm — the Exchequer and Audit Department — which they claim has only a fraction of the staff employed by any of the big accountancy firms.

They also argue that the new Commons Select Committees should evolve further, and that the audit of the spending of the Civil Service should become more of a continuous process than it has been. They believe that these Parliamentary Committees should concentrate more on evaluation of organizations and systems than on auditing individual transactions.

The accountability of any management, they contend, can best be measured by a comparison of its plans with its achievements. They therefore advocate the gradual development of a system of departmental reporting to Parliament and to the public.

This reporting should identify what the policy objectives were; progress towards them; the resources used; what resources have been allocated to them. The reports should also contain, if possible, a commentary describing the main factors which had affected the level of achievement.

The accountants claim that value-for-money auditing, based on the management systems approach, would help to rationalize priorities and ensure that money for controls was spent on the highest priority risks.

However, the accountants maintain that the changes recommended should be adopted as long-term objectives rather than as immediate requirements on the head of the Exchequer and Audit Department, the Comptroller and Auditor General. They say that the Comptroller and Auditor General should remain independent, not only of the Government, but also of the parliamentary committees to which he reports.

The memorandum is submitted on behalf of the councils of the accountancy bodies in the United Kingdom: the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, the Association of Certified Accountants, the Institute of Cost Accountants, the Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

NEB may broaden range of support in software industry

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

The National Enterprise Board has decided to continue its selective support for the United Kingdom computer software industry through its Inspec Products subsidiary. Indeed, in the near future, the Inspec operations may be expanded to embrace the products of non-member companies, though no decision has yet been taken on this.

The board has also not yet decided whether the proposed disposal of the private sector of the NEB/Inspec members framework.

On the question of the NEB's holding in Systems Programming, the disposal of which was proposed by Mr Peter Adams, SPL managing director, the board is now discussing whether this would be in the national interest, and in the interest of the company.

If the NEB does agree to dispose of its SPL shares, it is obliged to offer them first to the other shareholder, NDC Systems, a privately-owned company registered in Geneva. Until it has decided whether or not to favour the disposal on principle, the NEB is not discussing any possible selling price.

Inspec's revised corporate plan, following the recent separation of its viewdata operations into a separate company, has been approved by the Inspec board, but has not yet been considered by the NEB. This is expected within the next two months. In the meantime the NEB is continuing to seek further potential Inspec members.

Volvo sales

Volvo group sales during 1979 are estimated at 13,400m Swedish kroner (£2,488m), an increase of 22 per cent over sales of 19,133m kr in 1978. Sales in the fourth quarter of 1979 were 6,500m kr compared with 5,532m kr

Brick stocks rise

Brick production in Britain during December totalled 327 million and deliveries 288 million. Stocks rose by 39 million to 571 million, representing six weeks' production. Output for the third quarter of last year was the same as for 1978.

No reserve role for the D-mark

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Jan 27

The West German Federal Bank has extended the scope of its "gentleman's agreement" with German banks designed to hasten the emergence of the Deutsche mark as a reserve currency.

The banks have agreed that their subsidiaries in Luxembourg should no longer offer new issues of Deutsche mark promissory notes with maturities of five years or less to foreign investors. Banks will not offer non-residents promissory notes loans that have already been issued if they have less than four years to run.

The Federal Bank has therefore closed a loophole in its restrictions designed to prevent non-residents speculating in short-term Deutsche mark securities. The promissory notes mentioned in question are usually offered privately to large scale investors and are not quoted publicly on stock exchanges.

Domestic issues of bonds and money market paper of less than four years life have been barred to foreign investors for some years, while in February 1979 the Federal Bank stopped public bond issues by German banks in Luxembourg.

The German Eurobanks have also already agreed not to issue securities or transferable certificates of deposit.

This latest move by the Federal Bank shows that the German monetary authorities are still extremely of the reserve currency role of the Deutsche mark. If there is to be a move towards a multi-currency reserve system, they believe it should happen in an orderly fashion rather than a haphazard fashion.

For the German banks in Luxembourg, the latest restrictions will inevitably mean a loss of business opportunities at a time when profits are coming under pressure.

But it would appear that the banks still have some breathing space as far as the bigger issue of controlling the Euromarkets is concerned.

Swing into deficit, page 17

Currency dealers face 'fixing' charge

From Our United States
Economics Correspondent
Washington, Jan 27

The United States Department of Justice has filed a suit in the District Court in New York that will not only worry many foreign exchange dealers, but also could have wide-ranging implications for the way in which the currency markets function.

The department has charged the Foreign Association of north America (FOREX) and the Foreign Exchange Brokers Association (FEBA), both based in New York, with seeking to "fix, maintain and stabilize the commissions paid for brokers' services in the trading of foreign exchange of the dollar market in violation of America's anti-trust laws.

The complaint asserts that FOREX and FEBA acted in such a way that they "restrained, suppressed and eliminated competition".

FOREX consists of representatives from bankers, brokers and others involved in the foreign exchange and Euro-currency business and to some extent it is little more than a club. FEBA is the association for brokers in the currency

markets. The Justice Department says that these organizations conspired with others, but it does not name any individuals or corporations in its complaint.

In fact the complaint contains so little detail that its aim is not so clear. If the department really wanted to ensure that any form of commission rate fixing in the currency business ceased, then it would probably have named individuals, banks and brokerage houses, rather than just a couple of associations that do no trading at all.

Mr Mark Liddy, one of the department's senior lawyers involved in the case, said that the aim is to serve warning to all those involved in the currency markets that fixing commissions is viewed as a serious anti-trust violation.

Justice Department officials believe that the case quite complicated price fixing debates may have taken place within FOREX's executive and its market practices committees and within FEBA's board of governors.

The Justice Department alleges that price-fixing has been going on since early 1971 at least.

Delay in setting up IMF alternative could spark crisis

The danger of dumping dollars

A merchant banker, on the telephone from London the other day, was considering the possibility of a dollar crisis.

"The danger now is that a dollar crisis will start because some big holders may decide to diversify their assets", he said. "The amount of dollars overhanging the markets is vast."

The banker had called to discover what is happening to the International Monetary Fund's plan for a Substitution Account. He said the plan could dampen speculation that Arab oil producers may dump dollars on the market. This year, Arab investment funds are set to rise by about \$1,000m (£440m) every four days.

The IMF plan, proposed more than a year ago by M Jacques De Larosiere, the fund's managing director, envisaged the creation of an IMF account into which central banks could place dollars and receive in exchange a new asset, tied in value to the Special Drawing Right and offering an attractive rate of interest. The plan could enhance the importance of the Special Drawing Right, but more importantly according to

bankers, it could safeguard the currency markets.

M De Larosiere had hoped that the plan would be approved by the IMF's interim committee of finance ministers last October, but technical squabbles prevented it. Last week M De Larosiere said in a speech that "I hope that when the interim committee meets in Hamburg in April, the remaining questions on the design of this account can be resolved."

His hopes are about to be dashed once again. The plan will not be agreed upon in April. The ever-cautious Mr Anthony Solomon, Under-Secretary of the United States Treasury for monetary affairs, said: "I would doubt that such a complicated set of discussions and characteristics will be agreed upon by the next IMF meeting."

Officials are reluctant to talk about why the plan has proved so difficult to complete. One problem concerns the best means of providing the account with some financial reserves in case of foreign exchange losses.

Mr Solomon said there was talk of using some of the IMF's gold as backing. The

banker who called me from London was most interested in this — hardly surprising, given the state of the dollar market. Some officials are worried that it might be an admission that gold must play a key official monetary role and that developing countries will protest if IMF gold reserves are used in this manner.

It appears the Substitution Account will not be operating for months, so if any central bank in the Middle East or elsewhere, wants to reduce its dollar holdings, it will have to use the markets. This may mean tremendous pressures on the foreign exchange market.

Senior United States economic policy officials admit there is a danger of a crisis, and it would have been helpful to have the Substitution Account operating.

Frank Vogt
in Washington

Dobson Park "Extremely satisfactory"



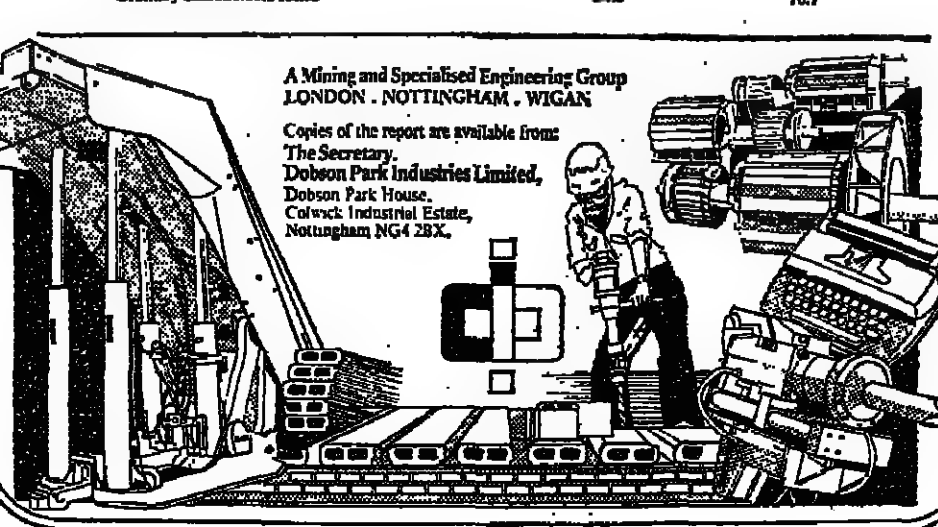
Group Sales for 1978/79 amounted to £142,200,000 an increase of 8% over the previous year. Group profits, before taxation and extraordinary items, increased by £248,000 to a figure of £24,223,000. These results were achieved in the face of exceptional interruptions of production caused by the industrial disputes of last winter and the damage to national engineering strikes during the last two months of our financial year. The level of profit in the light of the considerable difficulties must be considered as extremely satisfactory and again reflects great credit on our management and employees.

Review of Year
The people who work for Dobson Park can be proud of their achievements during the past year and there is certainly no gloom and despondency about the future. During a year of exceptional difficulties we were successful in increasing our total output by 25% to an amount of £24.2m. It is all our firm intentions to expand our overseas sales and marketing in the year, further investments have been made in overseas outlets.

firm predictions about the current financial year. The year has started well with full production in Mining Machinery and Kango and with the recovery in other areas being maintained. The future for the world oil industry looks as good as ever in view of the worries over oil supplies and we are determined to maintain our high position in the world-wide rock and gravel market. I feel that, in spite of all the many difficulties that lie ahead, we shall be able to maintain our good record.

Future Prospects
In the present unstable conditions it would be foolish to make

| Summary of Results | | 1979 £ million | 1978 £ million |
|------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| World Sales to third parties | | 142.2 | 132.5 |
| Sales in the United Kingdom | | 185.2 | 99.9 |
| Sales Overseas | | 37.0 | 32.1 |
| Profit before Taxation | | 14.5 | 13.8 |
| Attributable to shareholders | | 8.1 | 10.6 |
| Earnings per share | pence | 10.9 | 10.9 |
| Gross Equivalent dividend | pence | 4.5 | 5.9 |
| Dividend per share | pence | 4.5 | 4.0 |
| Ordinary Shareholders funds | | 84.5 | 76.7 |



A Mining and Specialised Engineering Group
LONDON · NOTTINGHAM · WIGAN

Copies of the report are available from:
The Secretary,
Dobson Park Industries Limited,
Dobson Park House,
Colwick Industrial Estate,
Nottingham NG4 2BX.

THE POUND

| | Bank buys | Bank sells | | Bank buys | Bank sells |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Australia \$ | 2.11 | 2.04 | Norway Kr | 11.55 | 11.05 |
| Austria Sch | 29.75 | 27.75 | Portugal Esc | 119.00 | 112.50 |
| Belgium Fr | 68.25 | 64.75 | South Africa Rd | 1.02 | 1.87 |
| Canada \$ | 69.25 | 64.75 | Spain Ptas | 157.00 | 150.00 |
| Denmark Kr | 12.77 | 12.22 | Sweden Kr | 9.78 | 9.28 |
| Finland Mk | 8.79 | 8.30 | Switzerland Fr | 3.84 | 3.62 |
| France Fr | 9.52 | 9.12 | USA \$ | 2.33 | 2.27 |
| Germany Dm | 4.12 | 3.90 | Yugoslavia Dmr | 55.00 | 49.00 |
| Greece Dr | 101.00 | 96.00 | | | |
| Hongkong \$ | 11.32 | 10.72 | | | |
| Italy Lira | 1990.00 | 1895.00 | | | |
| Japan Yen | 567.00 | 542.00 | | | |
| Netherlands Gld | 4.55 | 4.32 | | | |

Notes for small denomination bank
rates only are supplied by Barclays
Bank International Ltd. Different rates
apply to travellers' cheques and other
foreign currency business.

rates for small denomination bank notes are supplied by Barclays Bank International, cheques and other foreign currency business.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Reed BAT and Trident TV

Blue chip stocks feature strongly among companies reporting this week, with second-half profits from BAT and a third-quarter report from the giant paper group, Reed International.

Trident Television is also reporting and should prove interesting in view of the battle now being fought by television companies for the renewal of the independent television franchise.

Significant economic indicators within the next five days are fairly thin on the ground, but on Thursday there are the final unemployment figures for December from the Department of Employment, followed by the report on days lost through industrial disputes and finally the energy trends from the Department of Energy.

Full-year figures from Trident Television on Tuesday will indicate just how damaging the 11-week technicians' strike has been for the television companies. An early estimate has now been lowered, from £19m to £17.5m against £29m last year. With much of the group's profits coming from overseas, currency exchange rates will play a large part in the final outcome.

A 30 per cent devaluation of the cruzeiro earlier this year will also play an important part now that BAT holds 80 per cent of the Brazilian tobacco market. Nevertheless, tobacco should have made less of a contribution overall this year as the group's diversification programme begins to bite. The paper side should now chip in with about 20 per cent of operating profits, while the other division will be in profits of about 7 per cent.

Also on Tuesday come the third-quarter profits from Reed International, which should show a healthy rise due to a good, all-round performance.

Estimates range from £75m to £80m for the nine months to September 30, compared with £51.3m for the corresponding period. Most of the group's major divisions are currently enjoying improved trading conditions which should also reflect the buoyant conditions of the North American newspaper market, where several substantial price rises have now filtered through.

These figures are unlikely to be affected by the recent sale of its Dryden mill operations which will now show up in the final quarter. A downturn is anticipated in the final quarter, but analysts believe that the group should still exceed £100m for the full year against £95.8m. Recent sales by the group are now thought to have reduced the company's gearing from over 200 per cent to less than 40 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Second-half profits from BAT



Mr Alexander Jarratt, chairman of Reed.



Mr P. Sheehy, chairman of BAT.

Industries on Wednesday could well prove to be confusing as they have now changed year-ends. Therefore, this period now covers fifteen months from September, 1978, to December 31.

Estimates range from £448m to £480m against £381m last year. With much of the group's profits coming from overseas, currency exchange rates will play a large part in the final outcome.

A 30 per cent devaluation of the cruzeiro earlier this year will also play an important part now that BAT holds 80 per cent of the Brazilian tobacco market. Nevertheless, tobacco should have made less of a contribution overall this year as the group's diversification programme begins to bite. The paper side should now chip in with about 20 per cent of operating profits, while the other division will be in profits of about 7 per cent.

This week

Little so far is known about profits from investments which last year contributed 12 per cent of operating profits.

Observers are reluctant to make any prediction for the remaining three months, owing to seasonal effects.

Finally, on Wednesday, there are interim profits from Associated Dairies, which were delayed owing to the acquisition of Wades Departmental Stores and Allied Carports.

A healthy rise in pre-tax profits is expected which, after deducting acquisition costs, are pitched at around £21.5m against £15.1m this time last year.

The superstores' operations are thought to have continued the good start they made to the year, and should contribute profits of around £18m. However, the non-foods side will

show the problems encountered by most chain stores, although some improvement is still anticipated.

Hopes for the second half, though, do not look so bright as the recent fall in consumer spending will have begun to take hold.

TODAY: Interims: Ashley Industrial Trust, Cantors, County and New Town Properties, Ellis and Everard, Estates Property Investment, Midland Trust, Neepsend and Stirling Knitting, Finals: Braid Group, Brentnall Beard, Burroughs Machines and Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad.

TOMORROW: Interims: Christie-Tyler, Grimshaw Holdings, Henderson-Kenton, Rosgill (Holdings) and Worthington (AJ), Finals: IDC Group, Prestige, Trident Television and Vantage Sacs.

WEDNESDAY: Interims: Associated Dairies, BAT Industries (12 months' figs), Daejan Holdings, Mension Finance Trust, Stewart Plastics and Syltone, Finals: Allied Textile, Bank Leumi (UK), Pratt (F) Eng., and Throgmorton Trust.

THURSDAY: Interims: Armour Trust, City of London Brewery and Invest, Garford-Lilly Inds., Hambro Trust, Longdon, Newmark (Louis), Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers (9 months), Reardon Smith Line, Stoddard Holdings and Textured Jersey, Finals: Blundell, Pernogiaz Holdings and Hill and Smith.

FRIDAY: Interims: Gaunt (Rowland), ML Holdings, Town and City Props. and Wholesale Fittings, Finals: Evode Holdings and Radley Fashion.

Michael Clark

From Johannesburg

The gold mining industry—and holders of gold mining shares—are faintly hoping that the budget which South African finance minister Senator Owen Horwood will present to Parliament on March 25 will bring some relief from the punitive taxation which is currently skimming the cream off the top of the gold price boom. In many cases the state is taking about 70 per cent of the additional profits which the soaring bullion price has been earning for the better grade gold producers.

But these are indeed very faint hopes. For many years now, the gold mining industry has been the much-coveted which has provided the Treasury with a major part of its revenue. It is the largest single source of tax with the added advantage from the minister's point of view that it is voteless—but not voiceless. For years industry leaders have urged an easing of the gold mines' tax rate but these pleas have gone unheeded because the revenue which gold generates for the treasury is usually directed to areas which carry more practical political weight.

Mining

Lower taxes and more generous capital allowances, it is claimed, would encourage the mines and the mining houses to spend additional money on exploration and to venture risk capital on prospects offering only marginal possibilities of success. But these pleas have made no impression. The argument that revenue temporarily lost might be regained from subsequent tax on mines yet to come has fallen on deaf ears. As far as the Treasury is concerned tax in the hand is worth more than possible tax still buried in the ground.

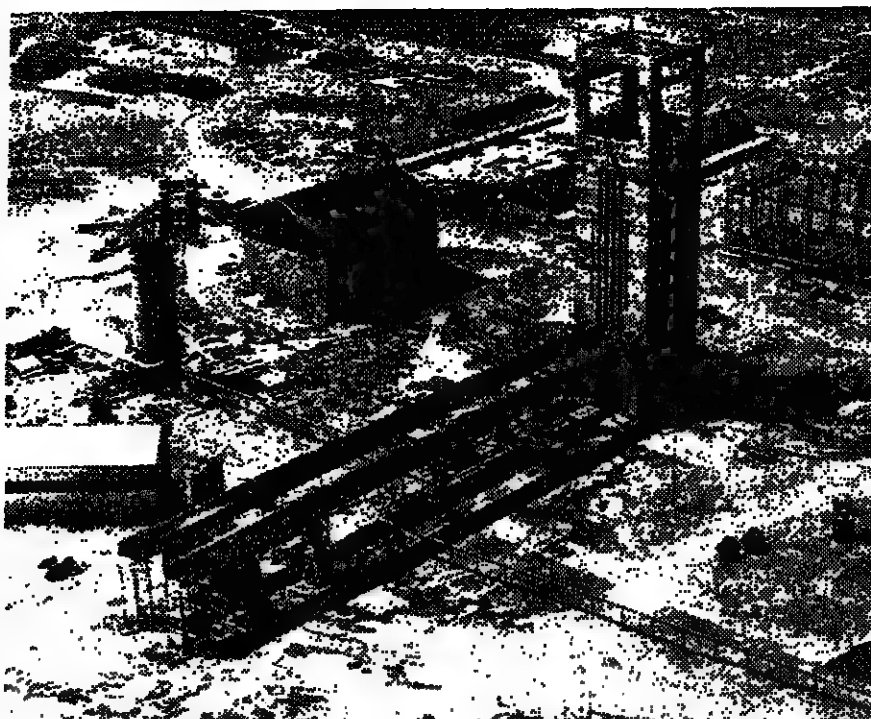
Gold mines—indeed most mines—pay two types of impost to the Treasury. The one is a lease payment which was originally designed as a capital contribution to the state to compensate for the exhaustion of a natural resource and was supposed to be reinvested in new capital assets for future generations—a philosophy which has been overlooked during the years.

The other tax is an income tax on a formula basis which provides for a sliding scale: the lower the profitability the smaller the percentage of tax, but the higher the profit, the larger will be the state's share. On top of formula tax comes the 5 per cent surcharge on tax payable and a loan levy which is 10 per cent of tax payable.

The authorities do not regard the loan levy as a tax because it is repaid after seven years and bears a nominal rate of interest. But as far as the mining companies are concerned it has the same effect as tax because it is money which is unavailable in the year earned either for distribution to shareholders or for capital expenditure.

Lease payments vary from mine to mine according to the government mining experts' original assessment of the richness of the property. If borehole exploration suggests that the lease area is rich, the formula is set to enable the Treasury to grab a sizable share of the largesse. If the possibilities are that a property is medium to lower

Why gold mines are hoping for tax cuts



Free State Geduld, the mine with the highest recorded lease formula.

grade, the lease formula is adjusted downwards.

The highest lease formula on record is that which applies to Free State Geduld in the Orange Free State. The boreholes were rich and the state's grab was correspondingly large. But a few boreholes are not true indication as Free State Sasipass, Lorraine and Fredrick proved. In recent years, however, the state has been more realistic, tending to standardize the rate at an average level of 15 per cent.

The average lease formula is as follows:

Payments are Y per cent, which equals 17 — (102 dividend by X) where X equals taxable income divided by total revenue expressed as a percentage.

In simple and approximate average terms this means that lease payments can reach a maximum of about 16 per cent of taxable income.

Taxable income is net income less capital expenditure and any capital allowances which are due. Ironically, lease payments are considered as being tax deductible.

The average tax formula, too, is un-

pleasantly complicated. It is:

Tax rate equals Y per cent which equals 60X (360 dividend by X) where X equals taxable income divided by total revenue expressed as a percentage.

Brush aside all this algebra, what the two formulae effectively mean is that no payments are made by marginal mines when their taxable income is 6 per cent or less of total revenue. On the other hand it seems to great heights when the taxable income is large.

For example it reaches a theoretical maximum when X equals 100 per cent, that is when taxable income equals total revenue. In such a case tax would equal 56.4 per cent, tax and surcharge and loan levy would go up to 64.9 per cent, and tax plus surcharge plus loan levy plus average lease consideration would be 69.8 per cent. And it could be marginally higher, depending on the variation of the numbers in the least formulae.

In essence these maximum tax rates are also the marginal rates which the



Senator Owen Horwood, South Africa's Finance Minister.

mines are paying on any additional revenue received from a higher gold price. It is only because most mines are currently embarking on large capital expenditure projects—to increase production, to increase efficiencies to extend mining areas—that they are not all paying top marginal rates at present.

But they are paying. For example, in the last quarter Western Deep Levels paid 70 per cent overall, compared with 64.9 per cent the previous quarter and 66.3 per cent in the financial year to December 1979. And Free State Geduld paid 69.3 per cent for December quarter, 69.8 per cent for September quarter and 66.8 per cent for the financial year ended last September.

Dr Danie Krige, group financial engineer of the Anglo Transvaal Group, says that to demonstrate the effects of the formulae when the gold price and costs change, the formulae for the relevant rates can be expressed as follows:

Tax amount equals 56.4 per cent of total revenue less 60 per cent of costs.

Tax plus surcharge plus loan levy equals 64.9 per cent of total revenue less 69 per cent of costs.

And the whole basketful of tax including lease payments would be 69.8 per cent of total revenue less 74.3 per cent of costs.

As he puts it: "The state therefore effectively takes in total some 70 per cent of every additional rand arising from a gold price increase and only bears 60 per cent in any increase in costs as these escalate."

He says the system of payments is similar to that applicable to individual taxpayers in most countries. Little or no income tax is payable by people in the lower income brackets and higher rates accrue to those in the upper income levels. This is usually effected by a system of deducting specified fixed tax free amounts from the taxable income and then applying a rate to the balance, the rate being either fixed or escalating—usually the latter.

The gold mining tax formulae are similar in action and could also be expressed as:

Total tax would be 74.3 per cent of taxable profit after having deducted a tax free 6 per cent of revenue.

This sort of formula would more accurately reflect the position. There is, in fact, a tax free amount which is the equivalent of 6 per cent of revenue while a flat rate of 74.3 per cent is levied on the balance. But a formula such as this would be too simple for the complicated bureaucratic mind, or might it be that even a government becomes embarrassed when it is clear to all just how much tax is paid by the gold mines? It could be a discouragement to would-be investors.

Perhaps the most that the mines can hope for in the next budget is relief from the 10 per cent loan levy and maybe the abolition of the 5 per cent surcharge. This would have the effect of reducing the tax collectors' take by some 10 per cent from the top marginal rate and at the same time of making gold shares just that little extra attractive, particularly if they are bought with financial funds.

Harold Fridjhon

A NEW BRITISH CONCEPT IN CONSUMER SAFETY

The Pencon plug has been developed in the interest of public safety. The objective was to produce an integral plug lead which would be supplied to electrical appliance manufacturers thereby enabling appliances to be ready for use immediately and safely without any additional work on the part of the user.

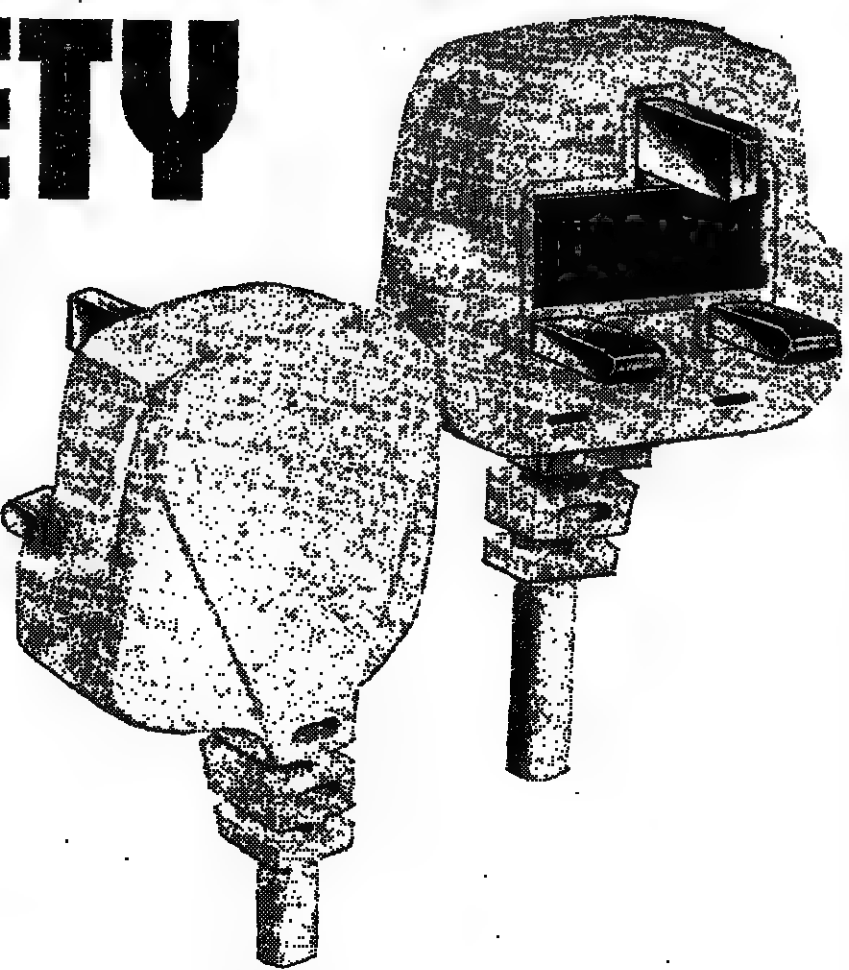
Furthermore the Pencon plug complies with the requirements of BS.1363A as far as this is relevant and in fact goes beyond this Standard in view of the radically new nature of the product. It is accepted by BEAB (British Electrotechnical Approvals Board) for use on BEAB approved appliances.

Electrical appliances fitted with the Pencon plug lead are now on sale in shops and showrooms throughout the U.K. and will come into even more widespread use as time goes on. A number of large and leading appliance manufacturers have adopted the Pencon plug as a standard fitting throughout their ranges of products with similar intentions in evidence by many other manufacturers in the electrical appliance industry.

The plug is protected by patents and copyright designs.

The PENCON® Plug

Developed in the interest of consumer safety by Pendle Connectors Ltd., Pendle Mill, Elizabeth Street, Leigh WN7 3AE, Tel. (0942) 603412, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Ward & Goldstone Group of Companies of which Pencon is a registered trademark.



Defence costs could hinder war on inflation

Appropriately we start with a general rather than a particular approach to the stock market. Lyndon and Company used to be as Welsh as leeks but its latest circular has Austin Friars in big print and "also Cardiff and Swansea" in tiny print.

From its new address, Lyndon notices the way this January rally in shares went almost hand in hand with the first day of a potentially damaging steel strike at a time when sterling was strong.

Clearly the market was looking elsewhere, and it is right to be optimistic because once again we are in a cold war. "It is clearly going to be difficult to justify plunging the free world into recession with the object of beating inflation at a time when sharply higher defence spending has become a necessity."

The hopeful writer continues: "Gold is being bought in a panic... gifts are being bought on a recession thesis which is now probably historic, and equities are being accumulated by investors who are just a step ahead of the game."

The qualifying phrase tells us all. The month's selections are North Sea oils again, Premier, KCA and Ultramar Convertible; Selection Trust in mining finance; and one special situation, industrial, Royal Worcester.

Writing ahead of the confusion in gilt at the end of last week, Mr Bill Buchanan of Kemp-Gee writes of a fundamentally bullish gilt market. He was not only a broker but a commentator that the new long run would be oversubscribed on Wednesday. It is what happened after that pains some gilt-edged operators.

Another general essay comes

from Mr Robin Griffiths of Carr Seabag. He is a charist. In FT 30 index terms, Mr Griffiths sees "plenty of resistance to get through between 460 and 480. I would not chase this market, because although the pattern is potentially bullish it is carried with it the same caveat that we obtained from the All Share Index. We have the first born but not yet the bull." He finds international factors alarming.

The open season for guessing clearing bank profits continues. This week it is the turn of Carr Seabag who have a thick book out on "London Clearing Banks, the next five years".

The open season for guessing clearing bank profits continues. This week it is the turn of Carr Seabag who have a thick book out on "London Clearing Banks, the next five years".

Brokers' views

This broker thinks that domestic banking profits this year will be 5 per cent up on 1979, due to be announced next month. The broker considers it unlikely that the clearing banks will seek external equity finance this year.

International banking profits are forecast to increase faster than domestic earnings. Dividend increases should be well above average.

For 1979 as a whole, total profits of London clearing banks are expected to rise by 40 per cent to £1,519m. The individual choice is NatWest.

For Barclays the broker estimates pre-tax profits last year of £505.7m against £373.3m; for Lloyds £258m against £182.3m; Midland profits last year were thought to have been £291.8m compared with £231.4m; and for NatWest, £461.8m against £297.3m.

A second weighty sector circular is out, this one from

Vickers da Costa on Food Manufacturing. The author, Mr Tim Potter points out frankly that the food sector as represented by the FT Actuaries Sub-Index is not uniform.

"For example, Unilever alone earns more profits than the remaining major food companies put together, but its share price performance is strongly influenced by the performance of sterling on world currency markets."

Food manufacturing shares are thought to offer investors reliability and stability and several shares have above average yields. Profits should compare well with those of much of the manufacturing industry.

Against this background Mr Potter recommends Cadbury Schweppes, Associated Biscuit, RHM and Brooke Bond. One impression the author is at pains to eliminate is that food shares are good defensive

stocks in weak stock markets. They do however "show relative strength during periods when the economy performs below trend and the stock market is strong."

How bad for building in 1980? Is the question put by Mr Martin Murch, writing in a new Simon & Coates circular.

His answer is: "Very bad indeed for trading, but investors should nevertheless be increasing their weighting in the building material sector and, selectively, in the contracting and construction sector in anticipation of the next cyclical upswing."

Mr Murch particularly recommends: Blue Circle, BPF Industries, London Brick, Marley, Ready Mixed Concrete, Redland, Tunnel Holdings and Barratt Developments.

The writer points to the historic pattern of building companies shares doing well when interest rates are falling. Building materials profits are free from import competition, and they benefit from readily implemented price increases.

Rowe & Pitman discusses the outlook for property shares this year. Interest rates are unusually high but the sector is not facing 1974-75 all over again.

Since 1975 net rental and investment income has risen 38 per cent, interest payable has fallen 25 per cent and pre-tax profits are £115m compared with pre-tax losses of £36m.

"Even if interest rates stayed at current levels for a full twelve months, we calculate that pre-tax profits of the sector would continue to rise."

However, rental growth is expected to slow down. But discounts to assets by share prices are large at 35 per cent, and the author recommends: British Land, Brixton, Hammerson "A", Land Securities, MEPC and Slough Estates.

For above average yield, Beaumont City Offices and Estates Property are selected.

The major individual share recommendation of the week is Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn from Mr R. M. Havard of House of Fraser.

In 1978 Tozer made pre-tax profits of £7.6m. For this year the author expects £14.5m with a further modest advance in 1980. At 70p the 1979 figures put Tozer on a price-earnings ratio of 3.7. If, as Mr Havard expects, the 1979 dividend rises by 35 per cent it would still be covered four times. The shares already yield 7.4 per cent.

Peter Wainwright

Business appointments

New company secretary at House of Fraser

Mr D. K. Milligan, a former director and company secretary of Harrods has been appointed a director and company secretary of House of Fraser. Mr John Atton has retired as a director and company secretary. Mr F. E. Read, managing director of Binns and Mr M. M. McMaster, managing director of House of Fraser, have been appointed directors of House of Fraser.

Mr R. A. Iles has been appointed a deputy chairman of Alexander Bowden Insurance Brokers. Mr R. W. Larkin and Mr J. W. Leach have been appointed managing directors and Mr S. A. Cook and Mr P. R. J. Tritton have been appointed directors of the company.

Mr A. J. Wilkins and Mr T. H. Holroyd are to become directors of Simplex Piling and Mr Wilkins will be appointed managing director. Mr J. N. Birch will retire from his position as managing director.

Warning from

Burco Dean

Recovery from the engineering dispute has been slow and the level of interest rates has led many retailers and distributors to work on lower stock levels, warns Mr Spencer Crookenden, chairman of Burco Dean, in his latest review. These factors are "severely affecting trading in the current half-year."

Burco Dean's activities take in domestic appliances and kitchen furniture as well as general engineering.

The group has new products aimed at the more buoyant segments of the market and these will be coming on stream early in 1980, but in the present economic climate, prospects for the full year must be uncertain, the chairman warns. The notes to the accounts refer to a £24,000 ex-gratia payment to a director.

McCorquodale's confidence

Barring unforeseen circumstances, the board of McCorquodale and Co expects next year to report another increase in profits and earnings.

Mr Alastair McCorquodale, the chairman of the group (which covers printing, engineering and thermo forming), reports in his annual statement that it enters the new year with confidence. Over the past few years, McCorquodale has invested "significant sums" in new machinery and equipment and the quality of the group's senior and middle management has proved its ability in exceptionally difficult conditions over the recent past.

During the year to September 30, 1979, the total share capital and reserves increased by £4.7c to £26m and now represent £1.63 per ordinary share. Total debt at £8.4m is covered just over three times by share capital and reserves.

Fibre plant to close

About 180 workers will lose their jobs when McCleery and L'Amie end production of high-bulk acrylic yarn at Saintfield, Co Down, over the next few months. The company blames losses at the plant on overcapacity in the industry and competition from Far East producers.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Today. Dealings End, Feb 8. \$ Contango Day, Feb 11. Settlement Day, Feb 18

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted.)

[illegible]

* Ex dividend. * Ex sl. * Forecast dividend. * Corrected price. * Interim payment paid. * Price at suspension. * Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. * Bid for company. * Pre-war figures. * Forecast earnings. * P. * Capital distribution. * Ex rights. * Ex scrip or share split. * Tax-free. * Price adjusted for line dealings. * No

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers last Friday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the index of 150 industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated to cover the period of non-publ-
ication.

Commercial property

Property focus on industry

In a fairly slack property market, much of what activity there is concentrated mainly in the industrial field.

One scheme on which work has started is on the Hampton Farm industrial estate, Hounslow, which is being carried out by the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund in conjunction with Second London Wall.

The site is one of seven acres in Hampton Road West, Hounslow, just off Apex Corner, with good access to Heathrow, Junction 3 of the M4, and only half a mile from the M3.

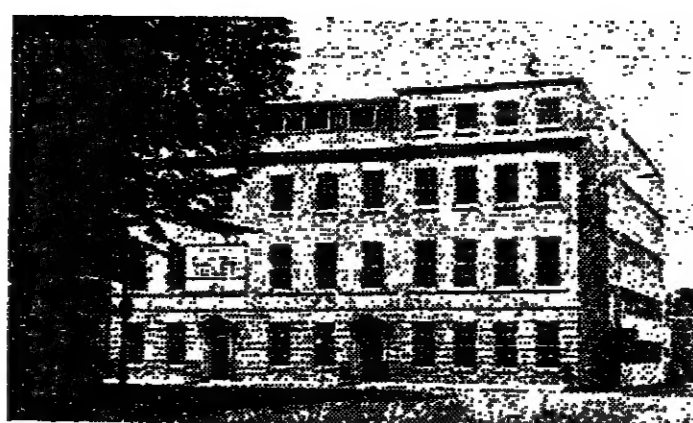
The scheme provides for warehouse and industrial space up to a total of 155,000 sq ft. A wide range of units is being built, from warehousing of 39,000 sq ft down to nursery factory units of 1,500 sq ft. The first are expected to be ready from September onwards.

The letting agents are Bernard Thorpe and Partners, who are also acting as the letting agents for the scheme. In Manchester, the British Steel Corporation and Tarmac Developments have forward sold a warehouse and industrial development on 3.3 acres of the 13-acre Parkway Estate, Trafford Park, to Excess Insurance Co. The scheme, which is now under construction, comprises about 75,000 sq ft

arranged in two terraces of 11 units, which can be combined in sizes from about 6,500 sq ft. In contrast to other developments in Trafford Park, the units will be fully fitted to include heating, lighting and carpeting for the offices.

Elliott Son and Boyton acted for the vendors and has been retained jointly with King and Co. as letting agents. Excess Insurance is introduced to the scheme by Wright Oliphant.

Near Aberdeen, Teesland Development Co. (Scotland), acting as project manager, for the Merchant Navy Officers' Pension Fund, has completed a warehouse and light industrial scheme on a site of 1.32 acres on the Bridge of Don industrial estate. The development was forward sold to the fund before construction started in August, 1978, and comprises four units with a total of 24,000 sq ft including ancillary offices. The scheme has been fully let at rents approaching £2 a sq ft. Clinton Skene Property Services acted for



Portland House, Bristol, which has changed hands for more than £635,000.

Teesland in the original acquisition of the site and the lettings of the units, and was retained jointly with Anthony Lipton and Co. in the forward sale of the investment. The fund was represented throughout by St Quintin.

What may turn out to be an interesting industrial transaction is the offer for sale by Guest Keen and Nettlefold, of the freehold

investment on its 17-acre site in Frimley Road, Camberley, Surrey. Offers in excess of £4m are being looked for. It has a total of 120,000 sq ft of space. Out of this, 74,000 sq ft will be available with full vacant possession on a site of 15 acres, providing considerable scope for redevelopment. GKN will take a lease on the balance of 46,000 sq ft on a 25-year lease at an initial rent of

£90,000, or just under £2 a sq ft. Rents on other schemes in the town have recently been at something over £2.35 a sq ft. The sale of the freehold investment is through Edwards Bigwood and Bewlay.

In Edinburgh, almost half of a new industrial and warehouse scheme giving about 101,000 sq ft has been let in not much more over three months since it was officially opened. The scheme is the Clifton trading estate at Newbridge, just outside the central part of the city.

An unusual transaction is the acquisition of the former Courtauld textile warehouse at 41/43 Houndsgate, Nottingham, by Tony Edridge Properties for redevelopment as offices. Built in the mid-1940s, it is located just to the south of the Old Market Square, in the main commercial part of the city.

The property is to be extensively restored behind its existing facade to provide 16,000 sq ft of offices on basement, ground and three upper floors. When completed later this summer, it will be, it is thought, the only self-contained office building of over 15,000 sq ft available in Nottingham.

In Bristol, Portland House, an office building of some 30,000 sq ft in the city's well-known Portland Square, has changed hands at a price of over £635,000. Completed only four years ago, it was designed in the Georgian style to match surrounding buildings. About 14,300 sq ft is currently let to produce an income of £25,500 a year and there is vacant possession of the remainder. The sale was through Smith Melzak and

Co and J. P. Sturge and Sons, and the property was acquired by clients of Bernard Thorpe and Partners. Just topped out is the first phase of the new Cloth Hall Court development in Infirmary Street, Leeds. The scheme is being carried out by Electricity Supply Nominees and the design is by T. P. Bennett and Son. This part of the development is due for completion in July and will provide a total of 61,000 sq ft of offices on six floors, plus 44 on-site parking spaces. Rents are expected to be of the order of £5.50 a sq ft. Letting is through Richard Ellis, development consultants to ESN for the entire scheme, jointly with Weatherall Hollis and Gale and Fletcher King. The scheme will ultimately provide a total of 165,000 sq ft of offices. Construction of the second phase, consisting of 38,000 sq ft started recently and is due for completion in April, 1981. Contractors for the phases currently under construction are Higgs and Hill Northern Ltd.

Gerald Ely

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Public and Educational Appointments also on page 7

AUSTRALIA

The University of New South Wales Sydney

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Applications are invited for a full-time position of Professor of Biotechnology in the Faculty of Science, University of New South Wales, Sydney. The holder of the post will be responsible for the teaching and supervision of students in the field of biotechnology. The post is a senior academic position and will involve a significant contribution to the development of the Faculty of Science. The salary is £10,000 per annum (with FSSU USS).

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PERSONAL CHOICE



Scillonian flowers growers: A picture taken by Alexander Gibson at the end of the last century (The Gibsons of Scilly, ITV, 1.30)

● Yorkshire Television's *The Sandbaggers* (ITV, 9.00) is the best series of espionage thrillers that ITV (or BBC, for that matter) has come up with for years. If you don't believe me, watch tonight's instalment, the first in a new batch. It tells how one of the "special ops" agents in British intelligence—the Sandbaggers of the title—is sent to Bulgaria to take delivery of a list of Iron Curtain agents from the turncoat chief of the Bulgarian secret service. I have not explained why I think *The Sandbaggers* is exceptional. I can do it in a line. It is written, acted, directed and photographed in a taut style that never slackens. So tightly coiled is it, indeed, that it does not even let its opening music go the full course but hacks it off, impatiently, in the middle of a rising phrase.

● Westward Television, the thriving ITV company based in Plymouth, has contributed a little masterpiece to the About Britain series (ITV, 1.30). The Gibsons of Scilly is about a photographic dynasty, now well into its fourth generation in the breezy shape of Frank who takes smashing pictures of seals and waves and visitors. His forebears specialized in pictures of wrecks and flora and fauna and islanders standing around in classical poses. They were the visual chroniclers of a century and more of Scilly life, and John Bartlett's film, with beautiful, contemporary moving pictures by Gerry Evans, has in turn chronicled the artistic and sociological sensibilities of this remarkable family.

● Tonight's *Panorama* (BBC 1, 8.10) examines the Afghanistan crisis in terms of Pakistan. It includes interviews with General Zia, the President, and with Afghan rebel leaders and their fighters as they cross the Khyber Pass on the way to do battle with the invading Russians.

● So, at last, after all those alarms and excursions, the news and analysis programme *Newsnight* arrives on our screens (BBC 2, 10.45). But why only four nights a week? Does nothing noteworthy happen on a Friday? Saturday? Sunday? A good job newspapers do not have the same mentality.

● Another reminder about tonight's Radio 4 play, *Arnold Yarrow's After Moscow* (7.45), which follows Chekhov's three sisters into middle age. A novel idea. Isabel Dean, Dinah Sheridan and Thelma Whiteley play the sisters, and the hard-working Timothy West is Vershinin.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: (STEREO); *BLACK AND WHITE; (T) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.00 am For Schools, Colleges: A Good Job with Prospects (financial world); 9.30 Biology; 9.55 Communique (behind the scenes on Nationwide); 10.15 Music Time; 10.38 Maths; 11.00 Merry-go Round.

11.25 You and Me: Neighbours (r). 11.40 For Schools, Colleges: General Studies (what we are degrees?). Closedown at 12.05.

12.45 pm News and weather. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Includes landscaping from the resident expert, Les Bailey.

1.45 How do You Do? For young children. Dressing Up (r). 2.01 For Schools, Colleges, Words and Pictures; 2.18 Japan—The Crowded Islands; 2.40 Golem to Golem. Closedown at 3.06.

3.15 Songs of Praise from Bolton (first shown yesterday). 3.55 Play School: Susan Eames' story Cold Feet. Cartoon: Grand Outlaw (r).

4.25 Jackanory: Geoffrey Henslin and Geoffrey Kilner's Joe Burkinshaw's Progress.

4.40 Playhouse: The Princess and the Peacock. Arabian Nights-type play for children. With Mick Ford and Laura Harrison.

5.10 John Craven's Newsround: Junior newsreel.

5.15 Peter's. A birthday celebration, Jack and Jill, the programme's pets, are four tomorrow.

5.40 News with Peter Woods. 5.55 Nationwide: Includes another instalment of Luke Casey's investigation of the Kitz Arthur myth.

BBC 2

10.03 am It Figures: Everyday maths, with Jimmy Young (r). 10.30 Working with Young People: Part 4 of repeated series. 1.00 Play School: Same as BBC 1. 3.35 Closedown at 11.23.

2.15 pm Let's Go: Brian Rix programme for the mentally handicapped.

2.30 Roads to Conflict: The origins of the Arab-Israeli crisis. Part 4: The mandate begins (r). 3.00 That's the Way the Money Goes: The legal side of buying a second-hand car (r).

3.30 Della Smith's: Cookery Course. How to make stocks and soups (r). Closedown at 3.52.

4.10 Is There Life After School? Teachers who work briefly in industry. With Brian Redhead. Closedown at 4.35.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: 9.30 My World (spatial relationship); 9.47 Finding out (Paris); 10.15 How We Live to Live (Microscope); 10.28 Starring Out (serial); 10.45 The Living Book (musicals); 11.01 How We Used to Live (Victorian farm labourers); 11.22 Picture Box; 11.29 Making a Living (German fascism).

12.00 We'll Tell You a Story: For young children. With the magic mirror.

12.10 pm Rainbow: Pupper show.

12.30 Numbers at Work: Decimals and measuring in everyday life (r). 1.00 News with Peter Sissons. 1.20 Thames News with Robin Howarth.

1.30 About Britain: The Gibsons of Scilly. Story of a photographic family (see Personal Choice).

BBC 2

11.05 Film 50: Barry Norman's movie programme. Includes a report on a Clint Eastwood fan society in the West Midlands, and excerpts from Eastwood's new film *Escape from Alcatraz*.

11.35 News headlines.

11.37 Ancient Voices: The late David Munrow plays some early instruments (r).

12.02 Weather.

BBC 2

5.40 Charlie Brown: Cartoon. He's Your Dog, Charlie Brown (r). 6.05 James Barker's Connections: David Letterman, co-host of The Johnny Carson Tonight Show.

9.50 Cricket: Australia v West Indies. Highlights of today's play in the third test, from Adelaide.

10.20 Russian-Language and People: Part 3 of this course for beginners. More letters from the Russian alphabet and how to find your way around Moscow.

10.45 Newsmag: Launching of the new and current affairs programme that goes out every night, from Monday to Thursday (see Personal Choice).

11.30 Arena: Leon Lovich. Portrait of the bizarre rock singer (r). 12.05 am Closedown: J. C. Hall's poem The Island is read by Lyndon Brook (r).

Regions

STATIONS: Wales: 1.45 pm Phil Pals. 2.15 Schools. 3.55 Today. 4.25 News. 4.55 Headlines. 5.00 News. 5.15 News. 5.30 News. 5.45 News. 5.55 News. 6.00 News. 6.15 News. 6.30 News. 6.45 News. 6.55 News. 7.00 News. 7.15 News. 7.30 News. 7.45 News. 7.55 News. 8.00 News. 8.15 News. 8.30 News. 8.45 News. 8.55 News. 9.00 News. 9.15 News. 9.30 News. 9.45 News. 9.55 News. 10.00 News. 10.15 News. 10.30 News. 10.45 News. 10.55 News. 11.00 News. 11.15 News. 11.30 News. 11.45 News. 11.55 News. 12.00 News. 12.15 News. 12.30 News. 12.45 News. 12.55 News. 1.00 News. 1.15 News. 1.30 News. 1.45 News. 1.55 News. 2.00 News. 2.15 News. 2.30 News. 2.45 News. 2.55 News. 3.00 News. 3.15 News. 3.30 News. 3.45 News. 3.55 News. 4.00 News. 4.15 News. 4.30 News. 4.45 News. 4.55 News. 5.00 News. 5.15 News. 5.30 News. 5.45 News. 5.55 News. 6.00 News. 6.15 News. 6.30 News. 6.45 News. 6.55 News. 7.00 News. 7.15 News. 7.30 News. 7.45 News. 7.55 News. 8.00 News. 8.15 News. 8.30 News. 8.45 News. 8.55 News. 9.00 News. 9.15 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